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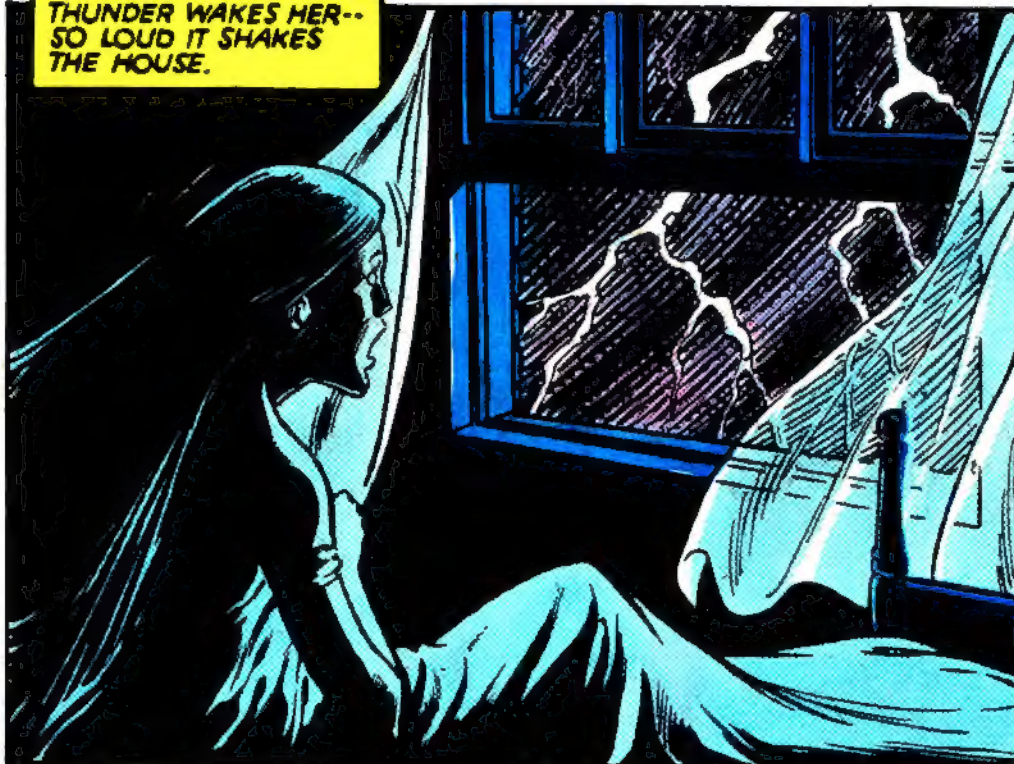
MARVEL® COMICS GROUP



# THE NEW MUTANTS™



THUNDER WAKES HER--  
SO LOUD IT SHAKES  
THE HOUSE.

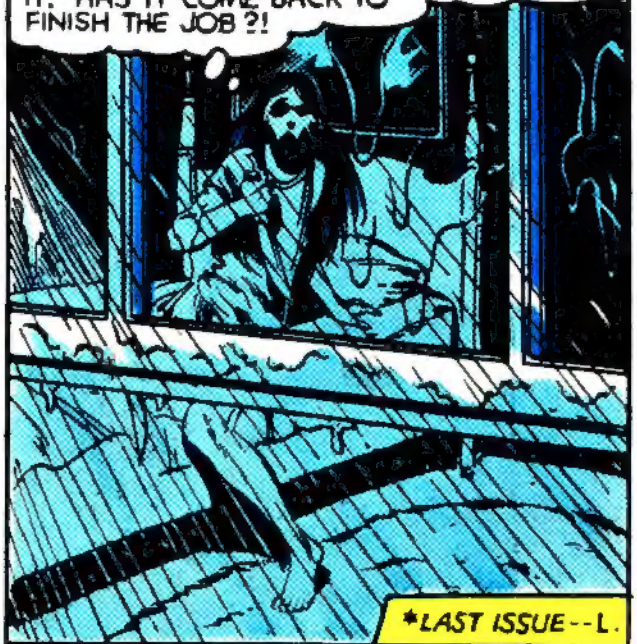


IT'S ONLY  
A STORM--  
NOTHING TO  
BE AFRAID  
OF.

BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN  
ONE SO FIERCE, EVEN  
BACK HOME IN COLORADO,  
IN MY MOUNTAINS.

I WONDER IF  
ANYONE ELSE  
ELSE IS UP. I  
COULD USE  
SOME COMPANY.

IT WAS THE MONSTER THAT ATTACKED ME  
IN THE *DANGER ROOM*,\* I'M SURE OF  
IT. HAS IT COME BACK TO  
FINISH THE JOB?!

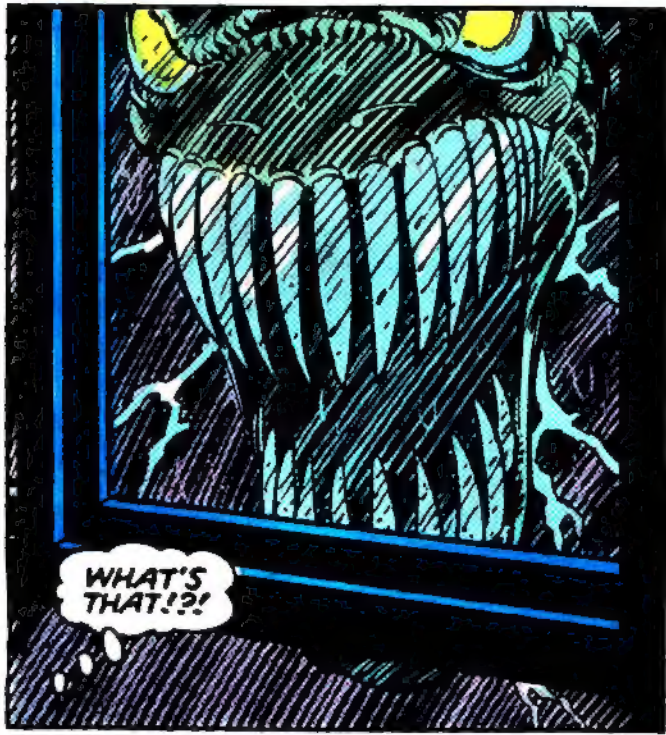


\*LAST ISSUE--L.

A FACE--  
IN THE  
WINDOW!



WHAT'S  
THAT!?!?

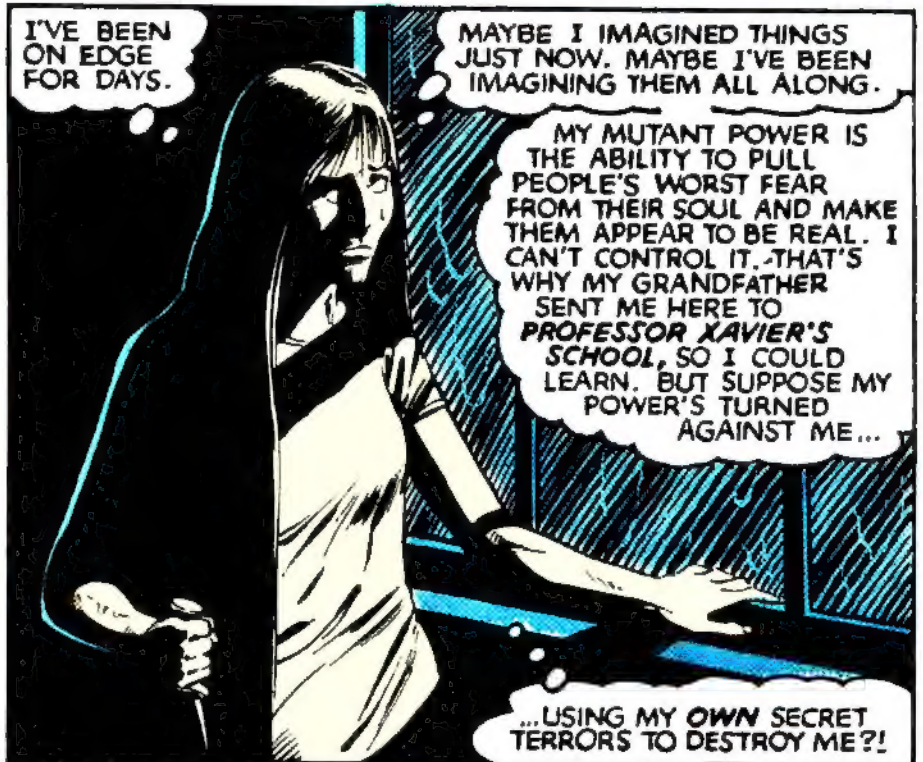


NOTHING. NO SIGN OF IT.  
BUT HOW COULD ANYTHING  
SO BIG MOVE SO FAST--  
OR HIDE SO WELL?



WAS IT EVEN  
HERE AT ALL?

I'VE BEEN  
ON EDGE  
FOR DAYS.



MAYBE I IMAGINED THINGS  
JUST NOW. MAYBE I'VE BEEN  
IMAGINING THEM ALL ALONG.

MY MUTANT POWER IS  
THE ABILITY TO PULL  
PEOPLE'S WORST FEAR  
FROM THEIR SOUL AND MAKE  
THEM APPEAR TO BE REAL. I  
CAN'T CONTROL IT. THAT'S  
WHY MY GRANDFATHER  
SENT ME HERE TO  
**PROFESSOR XAVIER'S  
SCHOOL**, SO I COULD  
LEARN. BUT SUPPOSE MY  
POWER'S TURNED  
AGAINST ME...

...USING MY OWN SECRET  
TERRORS TO DESTROY ME?!

Stan Lee PRESENTS...

# NIGHTMARE

STARRING THE NEW MUTANTS!

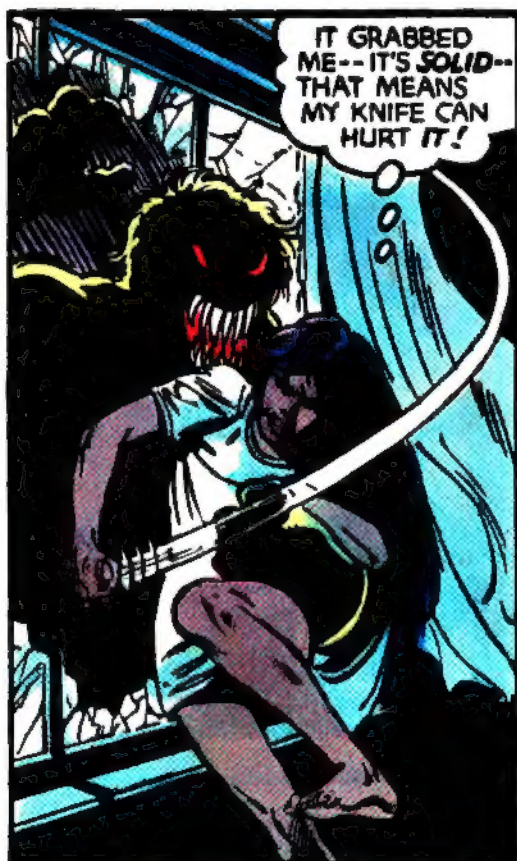
IF THAT IS SO,  
DANIELLE  
MOONSTAR,  
THEN SURELY  
YOU HAVE  
NOTHING  
TO FEAR...

... FOR A  
PHANTOM-- A  
SPIRIT-FORM  
-- CANNOT  
HARM YOU.

YIIII!!

CHRIS CLAREMONT BOB McLEOD  
WRITER/CO-CREATOR PENCILLER  
TOM ORZECOWSKI, LETTERER  
GUYEN WEIN, COLORIST  
MIKE GUSTOVICH  
INKER  
LOUISE JONES, EDITOR  
JAM SHOOTER, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

NOTE: THIS STORY  
TAKES PLACE BETWEEN  
ISSUES # 166 & 167  
OF THE X-MEN--LOUISE.



IT GRABBED ME-- IT'S **SOLID**-- THAT MEANS MY KNIFE CAN HURT IT!



I STABBED WITH ALL MY STRENGTH, BUT IT'S STILL COMING!

I'VE GOT TO WARN THE OTHERS! MAYBE OUR COMBINED POWERS CAN STOP IT!



ROBERTO, SHAN-- **PROFESSOR XAVIER**-- EVERYONE, GET UP!

THERE'S A **MONSTER** IN THE HOUSE!



SHE SLAMS HER OWN DOOR BEHIND HER, TO SLOW THE CREATURE DOWN, AND RACES DOWN THE HALL, EXPECTING EVERY MOMENT TO SMELL ITS FETID, CHARNAL HOUSE BREATH, TO FEEL ITS FANGS TEARING AT HER THROAT.

SHE'S NEVER FELT SO SCARED.

AND WITH GOOD REASON, AS SHE FINDS HER FELLOW STUDENTS...



ROBERTO da COSTA.



XI'AN COY MANH.



SAM GUTHRIE.



RAHNE SINCLAIR.

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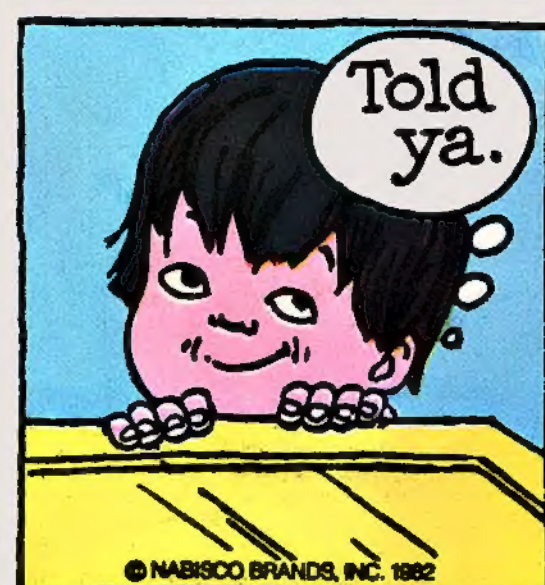
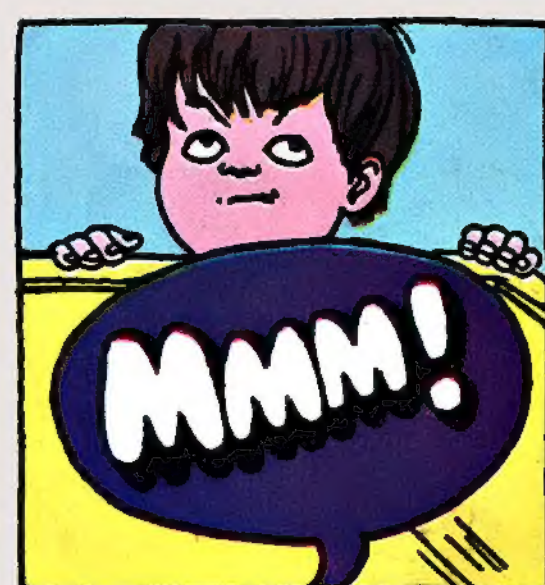
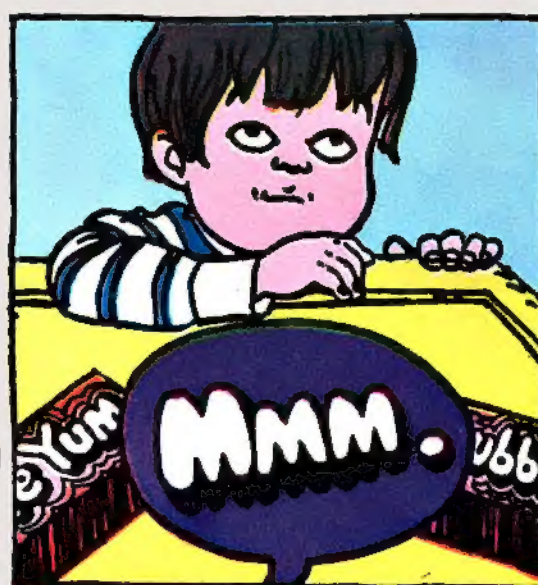
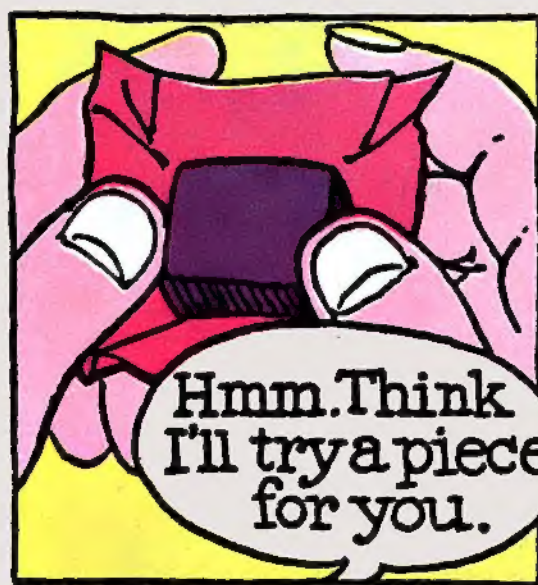
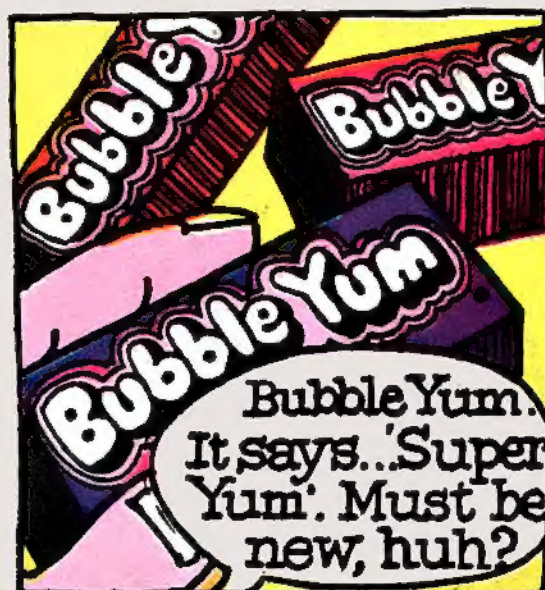
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MARVELLOUS SIGHTS, ARE THEY NOT? ALL SLAIN BY THEIR MOST PRIMAL FEAR, OR MOST ANGUISHED MEMORY. AS YOU ARE ABOUT TO BE.



THE MONSTER! IF I CAN REACH RAHNE'S WINDOW-- IT'S A TWO STORY DROP BUT I'VE SURVIVED WORSE ...

IT WAS TOO FAST ! IT CAUGHT ME !

WHY STRUGGLE, LITTLE CHEYENNE ?

THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM ONE WHO KNOWS YOUR INNER-MOST THOUGHTS.

IT'S -- CRUSHING ME -- HURTS SO MUCH -- BUT I WON'T GIVE UP !



HER FLAILING HANDS CATCH AT THE CREATURE'S MASK. SHE YANKS, AND...



SURPRISED, DANIELLE ?

CAN IT BE THAT, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ME ?

BY THE GREAT SPIRIT--

-- THE BEAR WHO MURDERED MY PARENTS -- COME AT LAST TO KILL ME, TOO !

**NO!!**

M-MY ROOM-- MY... BED-- ME! I'M ALL RIGHT!

THE SKY OUTSIDE-- IT'S CLEAR-- WHERE'S THE STORM?!



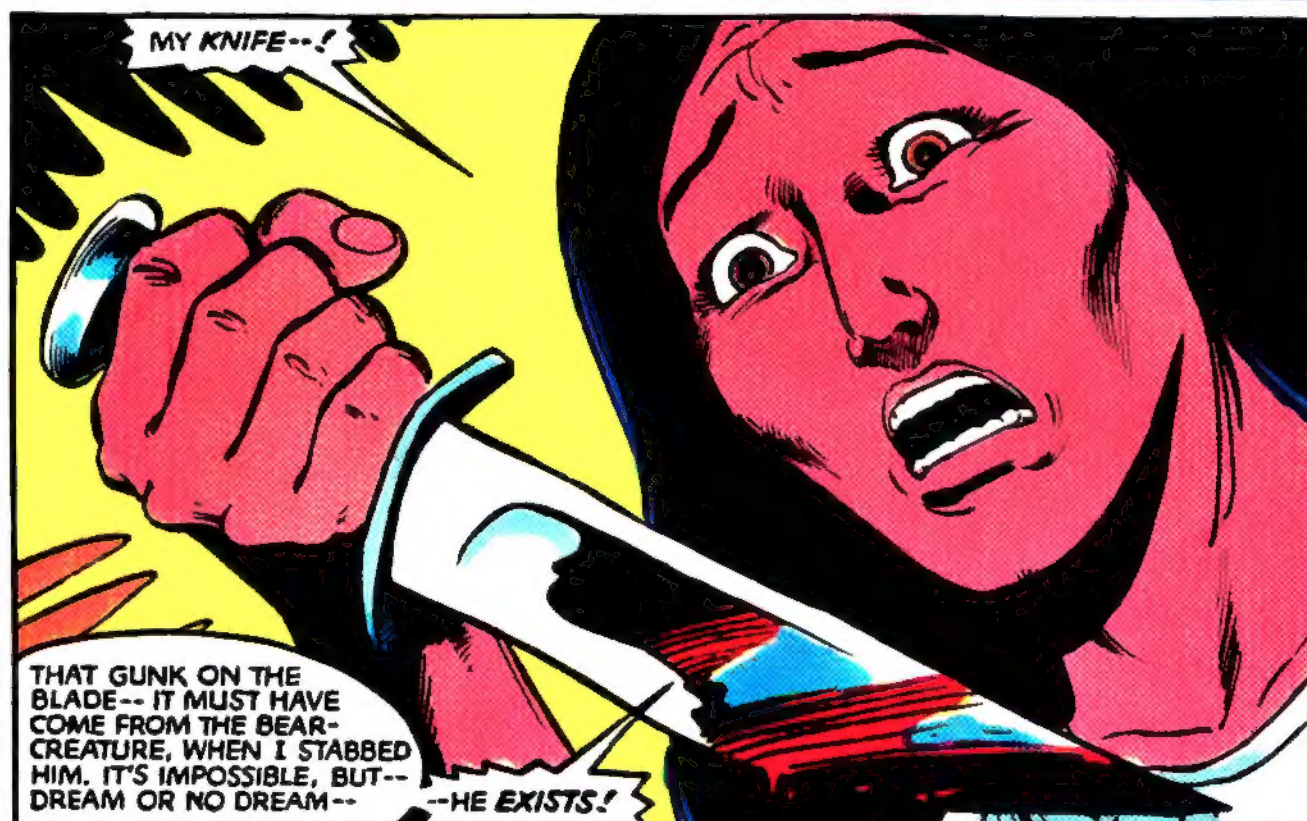
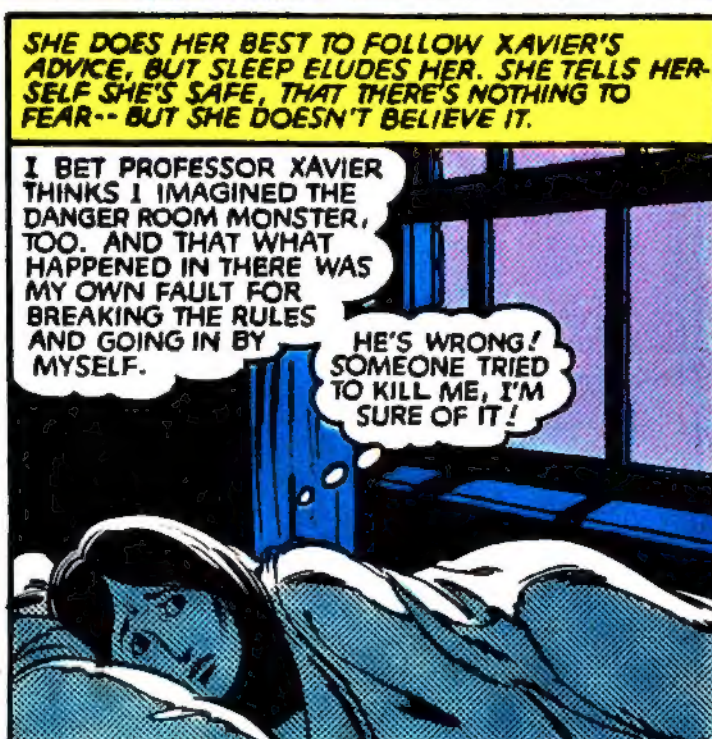
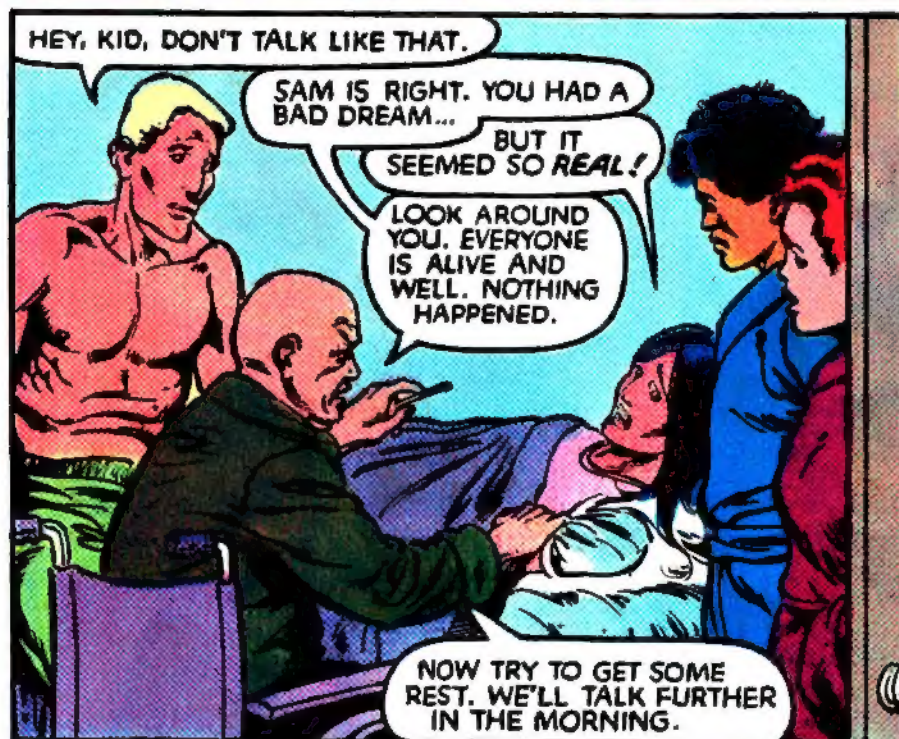
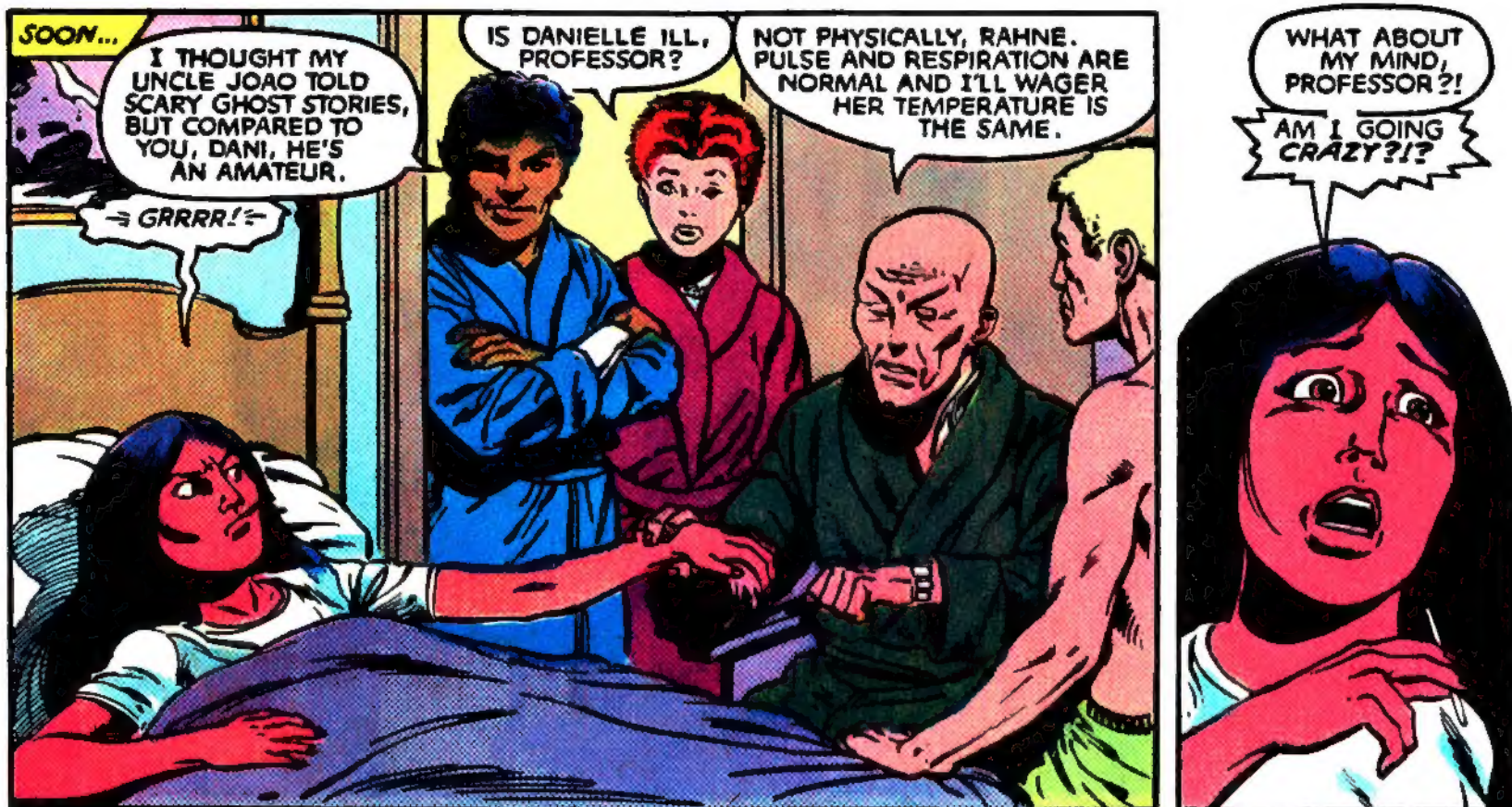
SAM ! ROBERTO !! YOU'RE ALIVE !!

HUH?!? WHY SHOULDN'T WE BE ?

WE HEARD YOU SCREAM, DANI! WHAT HAPPENED?! WHAT'S WRONG?!

I DON'T KNOW, 'BERTO. I THINK... I THINK I'M LOSING MY MIND!







PROFESSOR!  
MY GOSH, I'VE GOT  
TO TELL HIM--  
WARN HIM-- AND  
THE OTHERS!



I'M THE ONE HE WANTS, BUT  
SO LONG AS I'M IN THIS HOUSE,  
A PART OF THE NEW MUTANTS...  
... ALL OF  
US ARE IN  
DANGER!



IF ONLY I KNEW  
WHY! WHAT MAKES  
ME SO SPECIAL?!

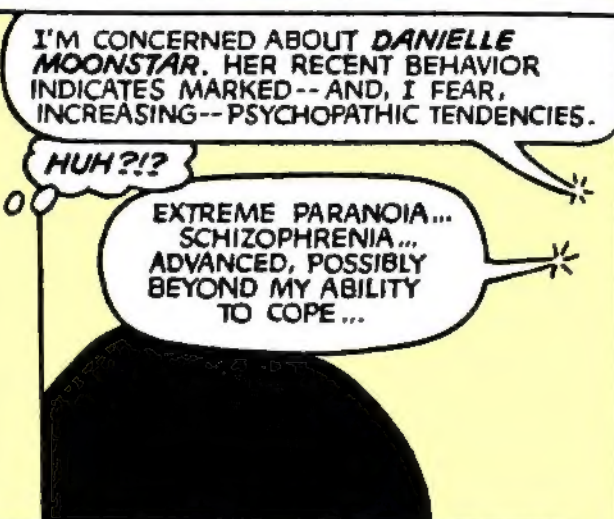
THE LIGHT'S ON IN  
THE PROFESSOR'S  
STUDY-- HE'S STILL  
UP-- GREAT! Uh-oh--  
SOUNDS LIKE HE'S  
ON THE PHONE...

MY  
APOLOGIES  
FOR CALLING  
AT SUCH AN  
UNGODLY  
HOUR,  
MOIRA.



HE'S SPEAKING TO Dr. Mac-  
TAGGERT, HIS ASSOCIATE. SHE  
ISN'T A MUTANT, LIKE THE  
PROFESSOR AND US, BUT  
SHE'S ALMOST AS SMART  
AS HE IS. SHE'S A REAL  
NICE LADY, TOO.

SHE LIVES IN SCOTLAND.  
IT MUST BE A LOUSY  
CONNECTION-- THE  
PROFESSOR'S YELLING--  
THAT'S HOW COME I  
CAN HEAR HIM.



I'M CONCERNED ABOUT **DANIELLE  
MOONSTAR**. HER RECENT BEHAVIOR  
INDICATES MARKED-- AND, I FEAR,  
INCREASING-- PSYCHOPATHIC TENDENCIES.

HUH?!?

EXTREME PARANOIA...  
SCHIZOPHRENIA...  
ADVANCED, POSSIBLY  
BEYOND MY ABILITY  
TO COPE...



NO.  
SPIRITS OF MY  
ANCESTORS PROTECT  
ME-- **NO!!**



HE THINKS  
I'M INSANE.



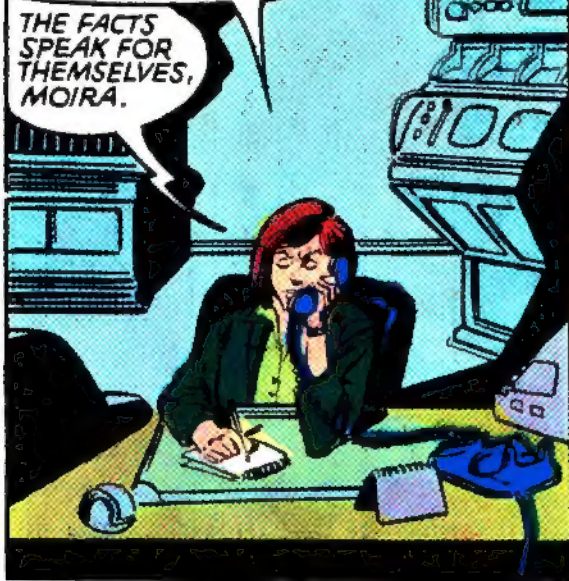
MAYBE I AM.  
MY MUTANT POWER  
NEVER SHOWS ANY-  
THING GOOD-- MAYBE  
BECAUSE I DON'T  
WANT IT TO. MAYBE I  
SHOW THE WICKED,  
EVIL, HURTFUL SIDES  
OF PEOPLE BECAUSE  
I'M WICKED AND  
HURTFUL-- AND  
EVIL.

IF THAT'S  
TRUE, I  
DON'T WANT--  
I SHOULDN'T  
BE ALLOWED--  
TO LIVE.

MEANWHILE, AN OCEAN AWAY, IN HER MUIR ISLE LAB...

I HAVE NE'ER HEARD SUCH UNADULTERATED RUBBISH IN MY LIFE. THE CHILD HAS NAE HISTORY OF MENTAL ILLNESS. SHE CHECKED OUT FINE WHEN I EXAMINED HER LAST SUMMER.

THE FACTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES, MOIRA.



NONSENSE. WHAT ABOUT A DIRECT MIND-SCAN? YOU'RE THE TELEPATH, MAN, NOT I. HAVE YOU NO' PEERED INSIDE HER BRAIN, T' CONFIRM YUIR DIAGNOSIS?

NO... NOT YET.



THEN BOTHER ME WHEN YOU'VE DONE SO!

YE'RE ON A SHORT FUSE T'DAY, DARLIN'.



THAT MAN CAN BE SO EXASPERATING!

IF HE'S TRULY WORRIED, HE SHOULD HA' MIND-SCANNED DANI FIRST THING. T' RING ME AS HE DID-- T' THEN TALK AS HE DID-- IT'S NA' LIKE HIM.

YE WERE A BIT HARD ON HIM, THOUGH, DON'T YE THINK?



AYE. P'RHAPS I WAS.

IT'S THE BOY, ISN'T IT?

AYE. THE SON CHARLIE DOES NA' KNOW HE HAS. THE SON HE AN' I DREAMED OF WHEN WE WERE IN LOVE.

I REMEMBER MY OWN CHILD, SEAN, ALSO A MUTANT-- BUT SO INSANE AN' EVIL THAT I AN' THE X-MEN WERE FORCED EVENTUALLY T' DESTROY HIM.



WHY ME? WHY COULD NA' MY BABE HA' BEEN THE JOY THAT CHARLEY'S MAY YET BE?! AN WHY MUST I BE THE ONE T' SAVE HIM?!!

'TIS NA' FAIR, SEAN.



THEN MARRY ME, MOIRA, AN' LET'S HAVE SONS AN' DAUGHTERS OF OUR OWN!

SUPPOSE THEY'RE MONSTERS, LIKE PROTEUS?

HE WAS CONCEIVED IN AN ACT OF VIOLENCE AN' HATRED. OURS'LL COME FROM LOVE. THEY'LL BE BEAUTIFUL.

I LOVE YOU, SEAN. I'D LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT...

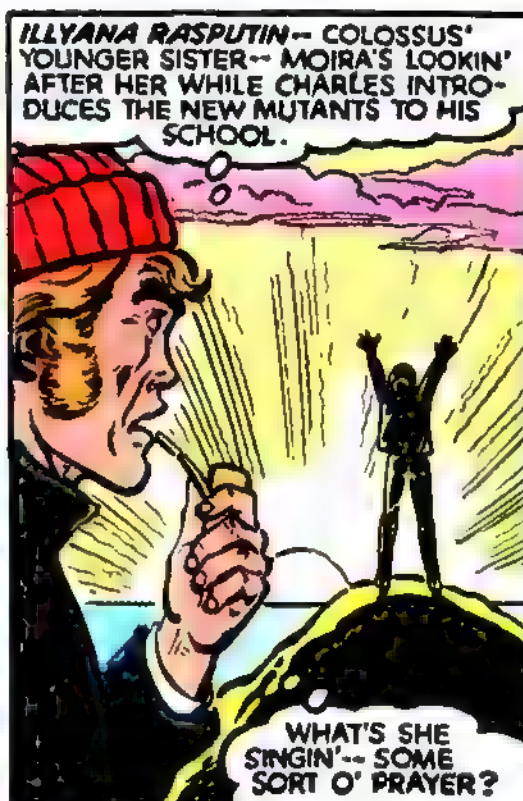
"... BUT I DARE NOT TAKE THE RISK."

JOE MacTAGGERT, WERE YE NOT ALREADY DEAD, I'D KILL YE NOW-- F'R WHAT YE DID T' MOIRA.



WHO'S THAT ON THE PROMONTORY?

ILLYANA RASPUTIN-- COLOSSUS' YOUNGER SISTER-- MOIRA'S LOOKIN' AFTER HER WHILE CHARLES INTRODUCES THE NEW MUTANTS TO HIS SCHOOL.



WHAT'S SHE SINGIN'-- SOME SORT O' PRAYER?

WHEREVER YOUR SOUL WANDERS, CAT, MAY YOU FIND THE PEACE AND HAPPINESS YOU HUNGRED FOR.

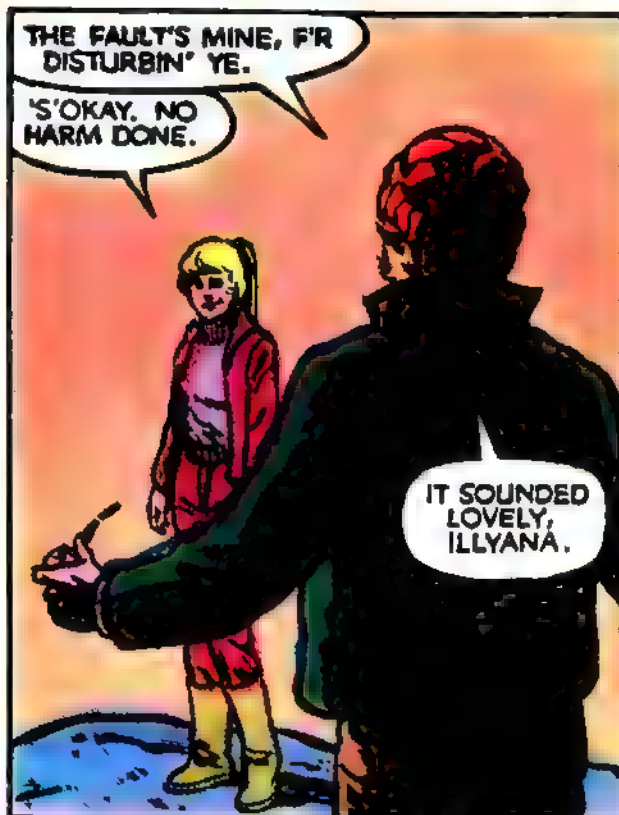
BE WELL, BELOVED FRIENDS. MAY THE GREAT ONE GRANT THAT I PROVE WORTHY OF YOUR TRUST, AND SACRIFICE.



OH! H'LO, BANSHEE. I DIDN'T KNOW ANYONE ELSE WAS AROUND.

THE FAULT'S MINE, F'R DISTURBIN' YE.



'S'OKAY. NO HARM DONE.



IT SOUNDED LOVELY, ILLYANA.

MY SONG? THANKS--ORORO TAUGHT IT TO ME. I PROMISED MY BEST FRIEND I'D HONOR HER MEMORY ON HER BIRTHDAY AND THIS SEEMED THE BEST WAY TO DO IT.

AS I RECALL, T'DAY'S KITTY PRYDE'S BIRTHDAY-- IS THAT WHO ILLYANA MEANS?

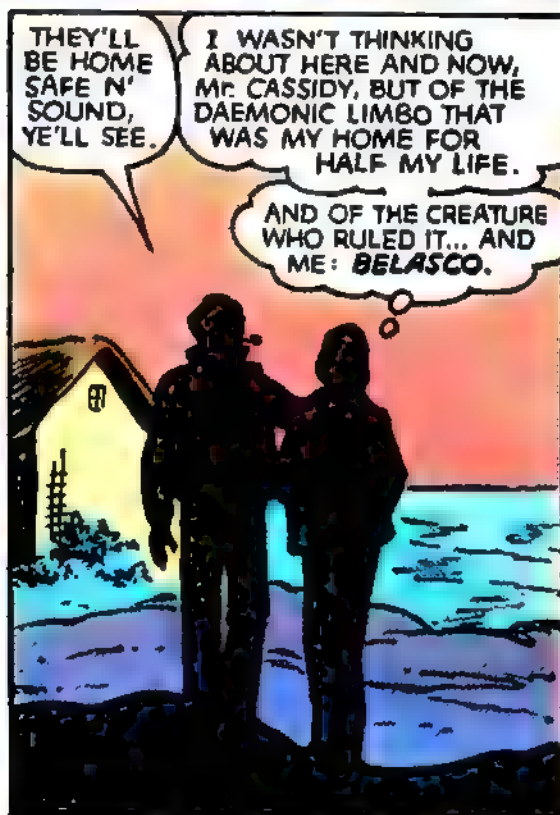



YE SHOULDN'T FRET, CHILD. TRUE, THE X-MEN HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED BY ALIENS, BUT THEY'VE SURVIVED WORSE SCRAPES.

THEY'LL BE HOME SAFE N' SOUND, YE'LL SEE.

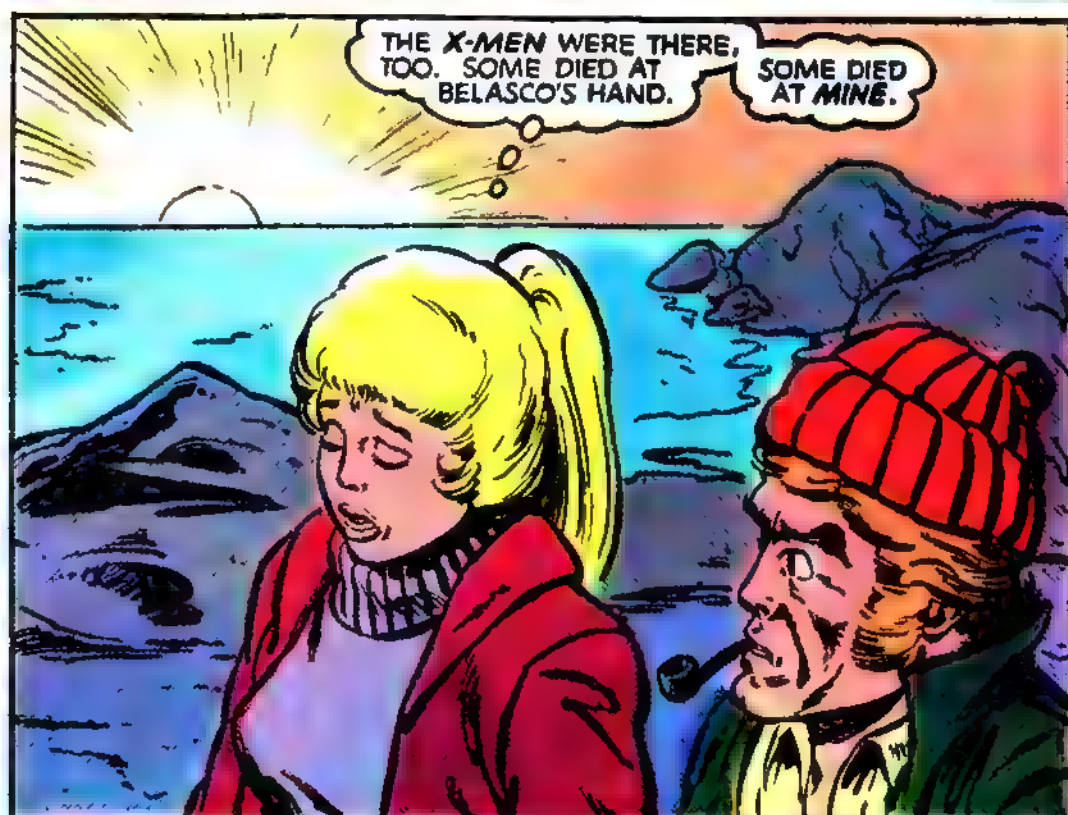
I WASN'T THINKING ABOUT HERE AND NOW, MR. CASSIDY, BUT OF THE DAEMONIC LIMBO THAT WAS MY HOME FOR HALF MY LIFE.

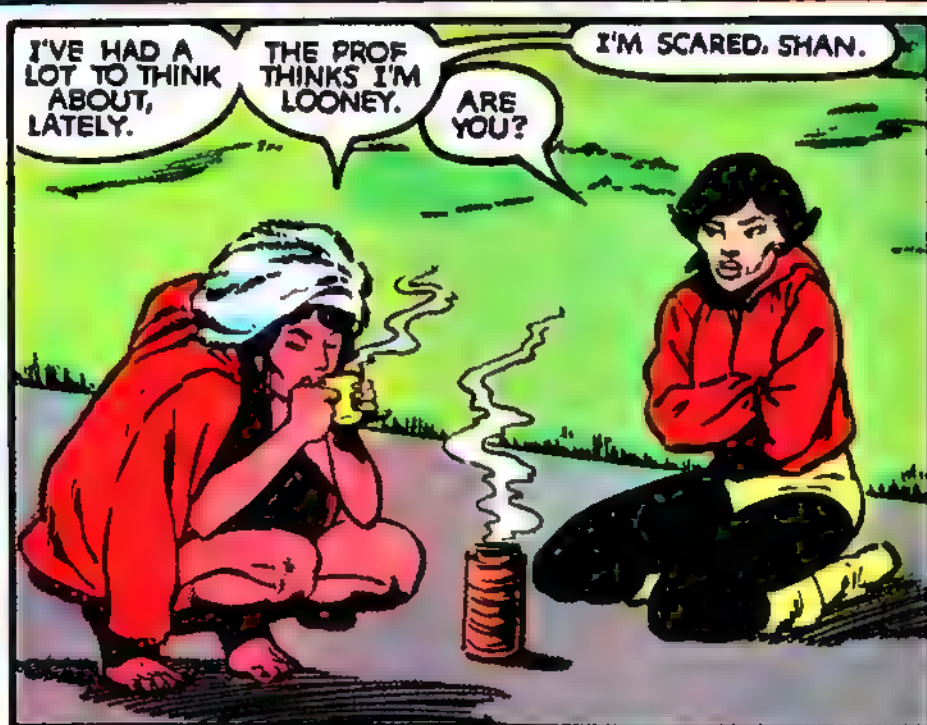
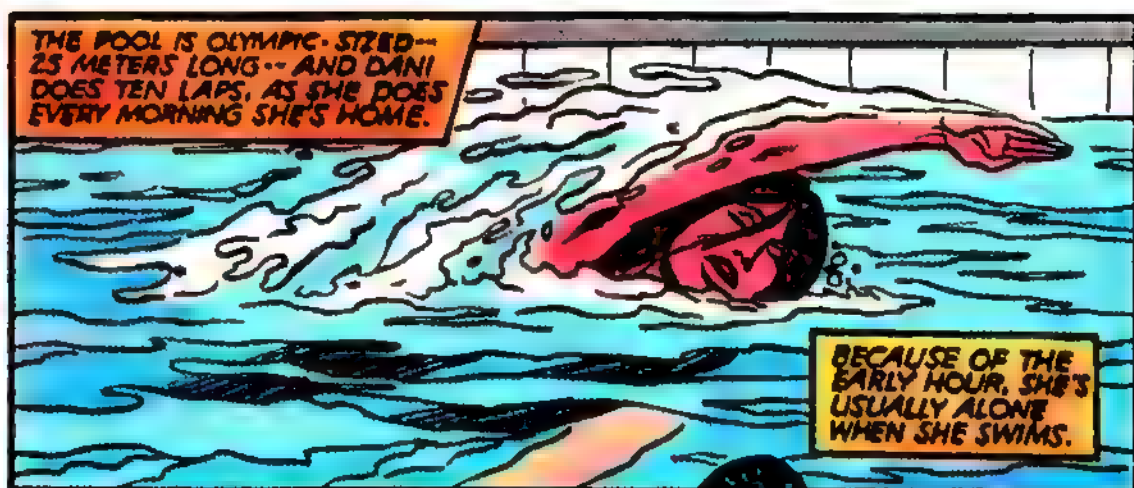
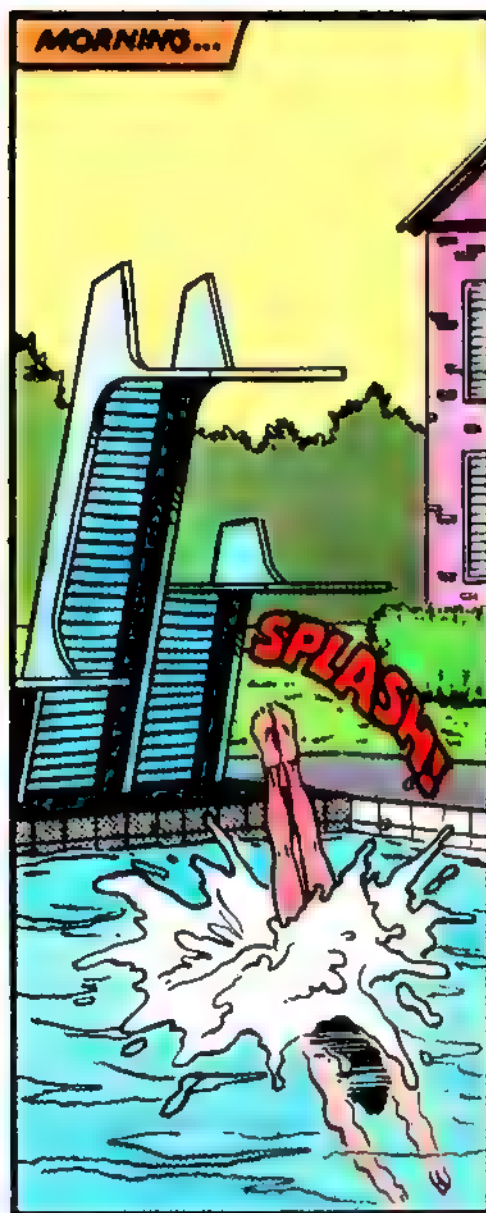
AND OF THE CREATURE WHO RULED IT... AND ME: BELASCO.

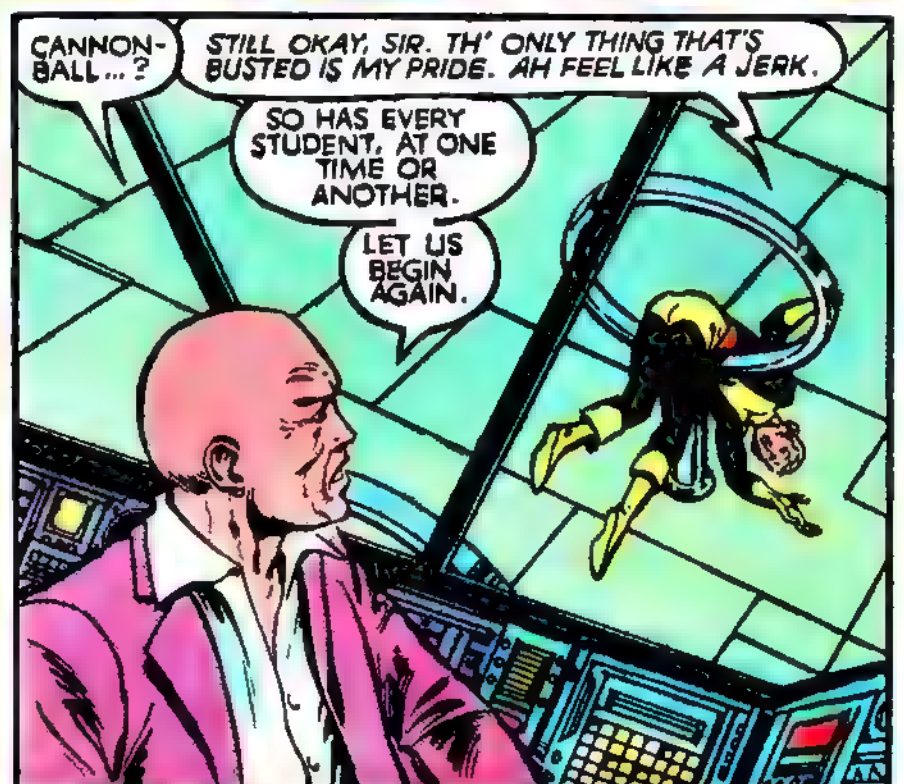
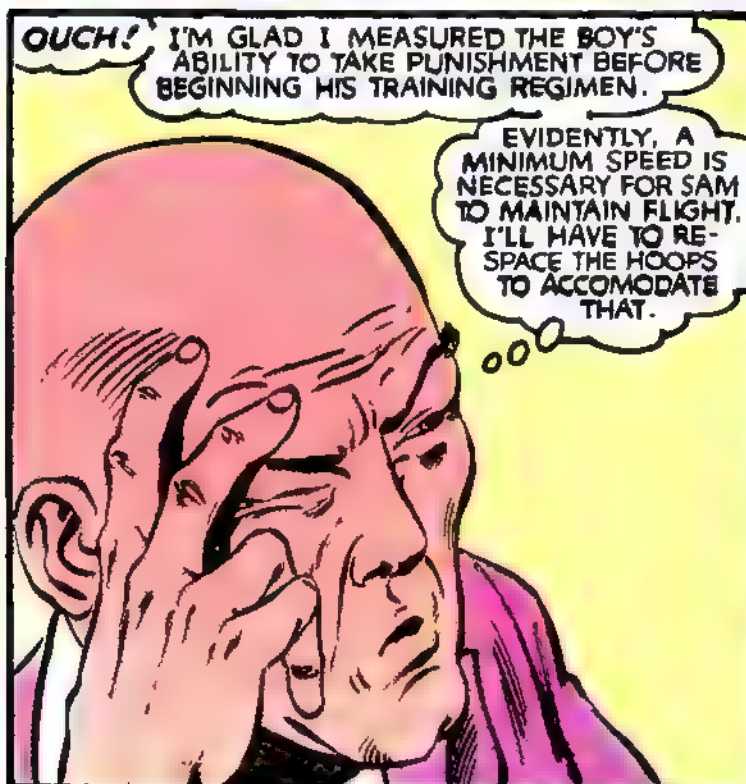
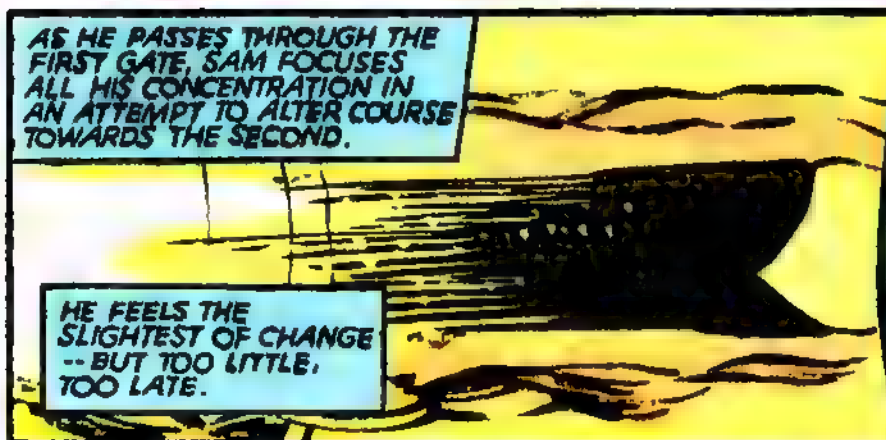
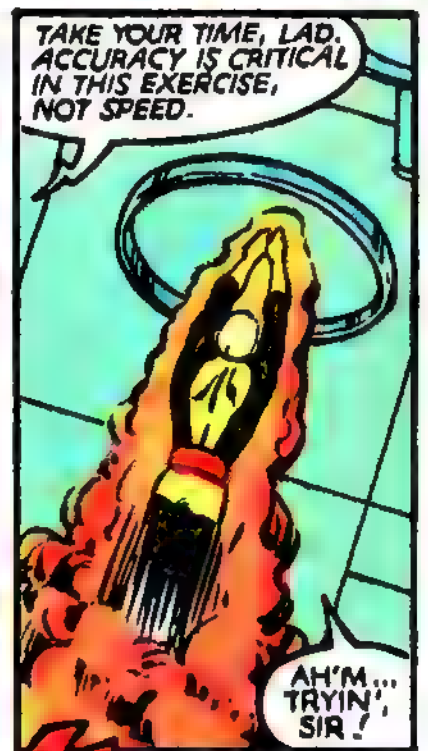
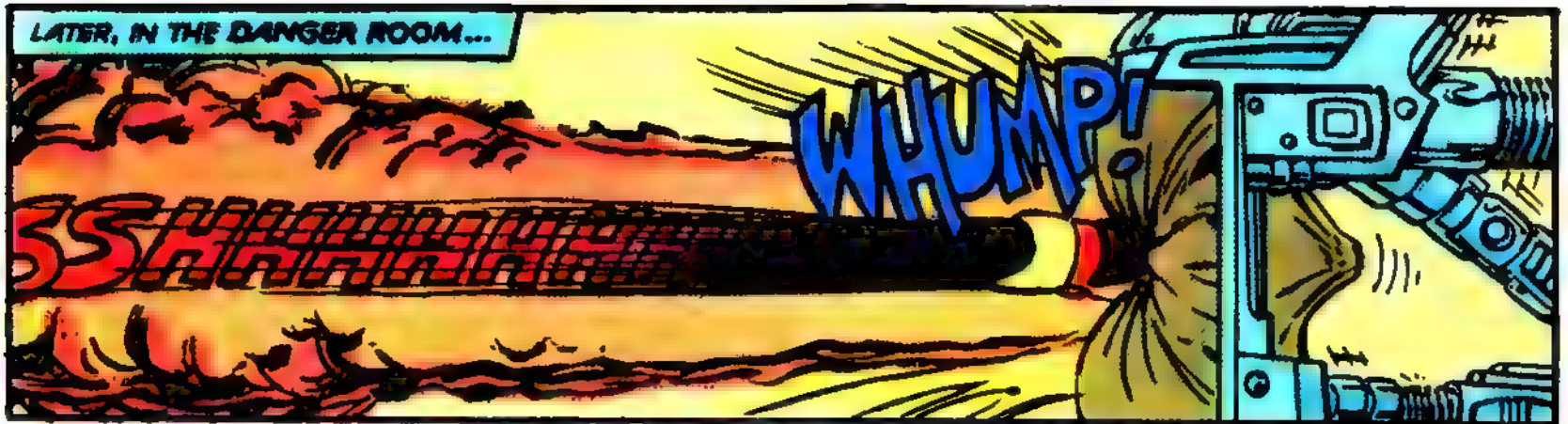


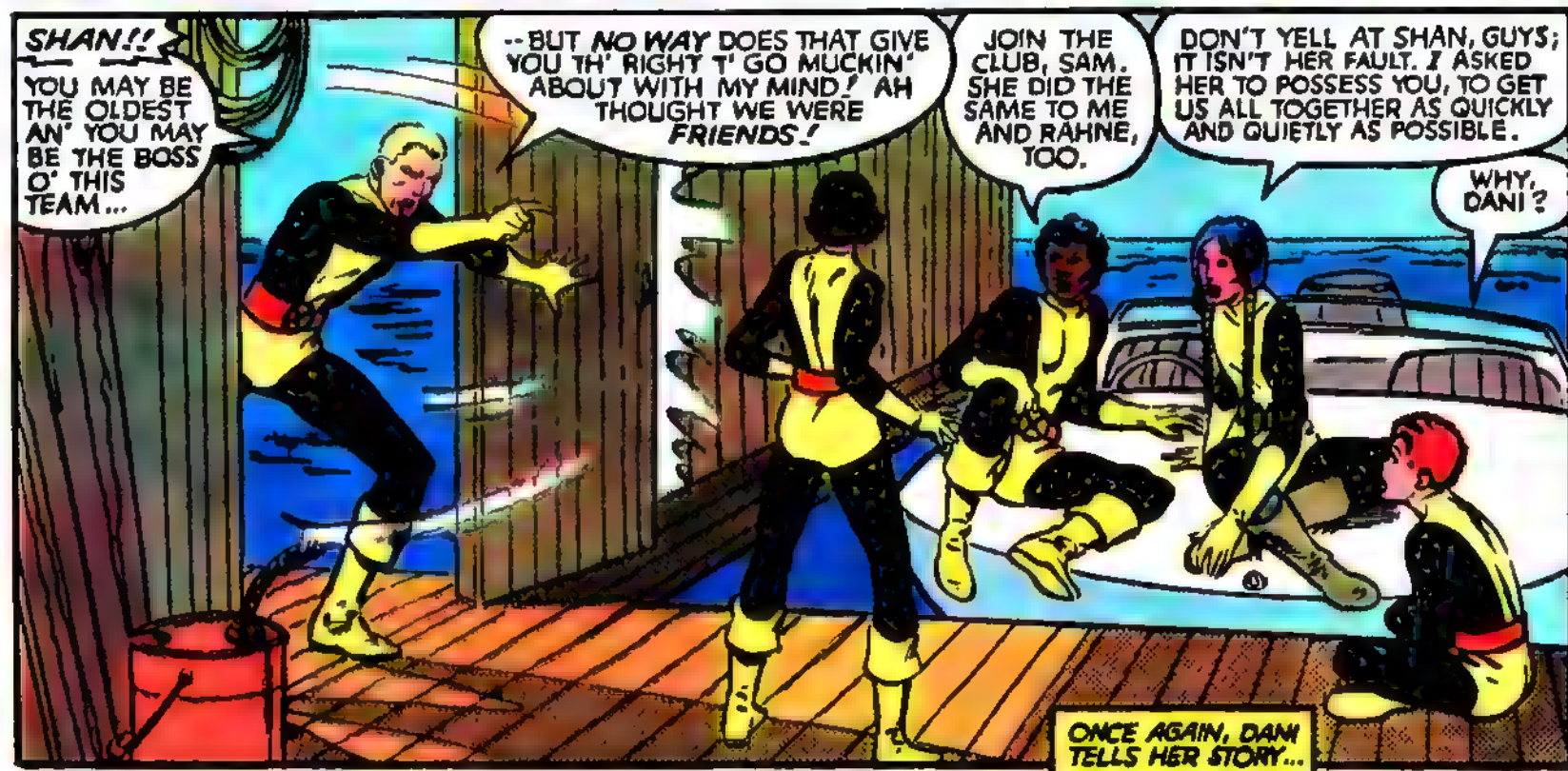
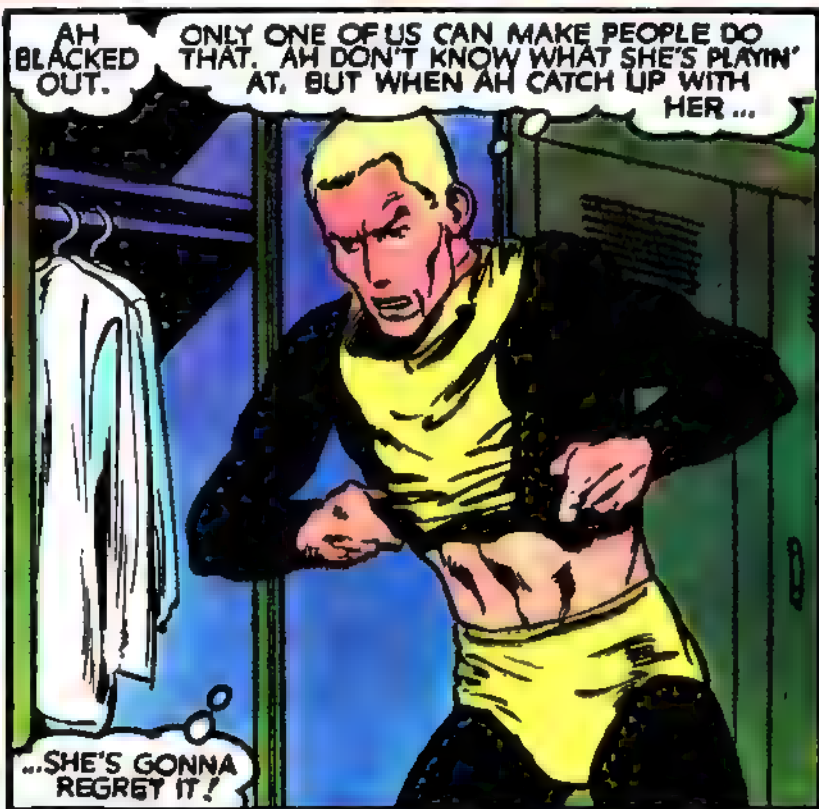
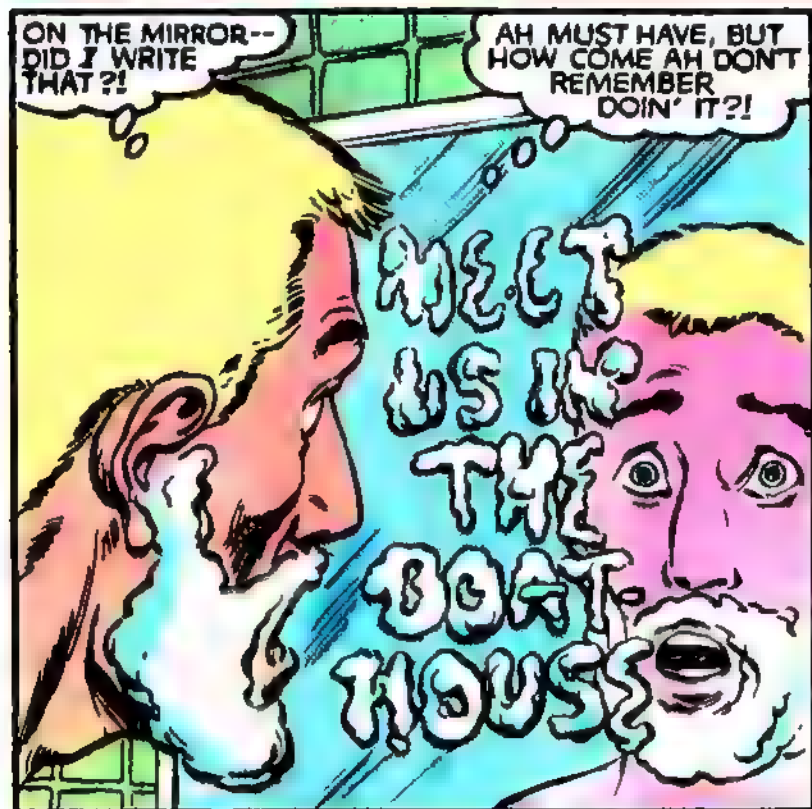
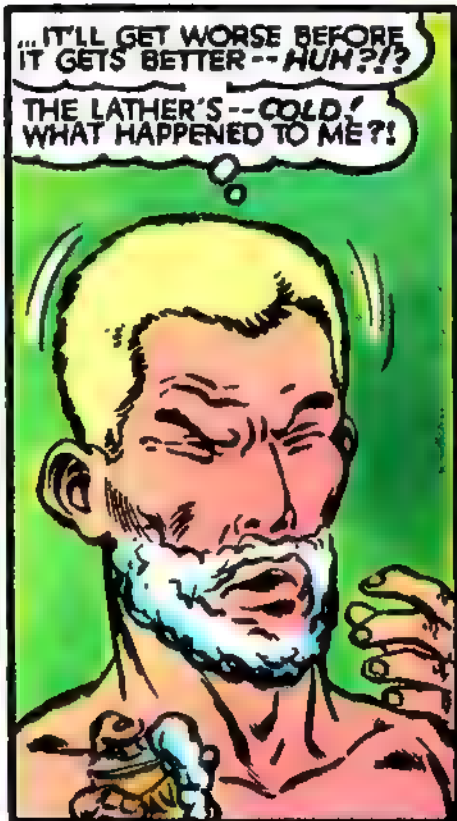
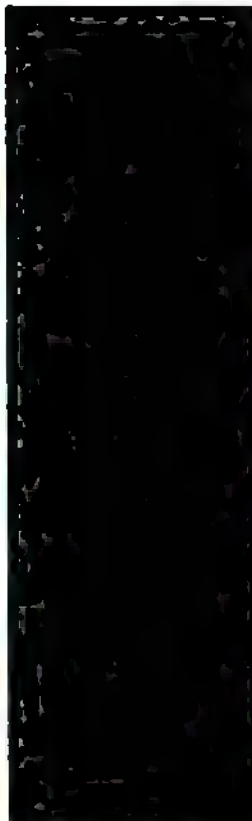
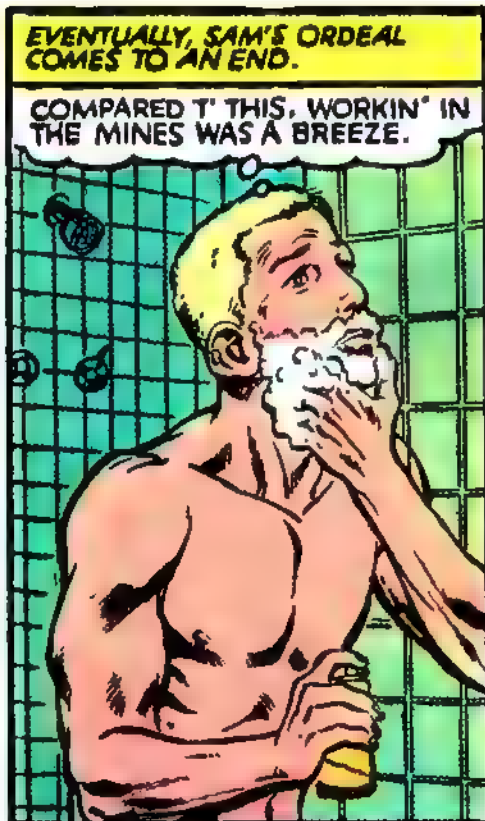
THE X-MEN WERE THERE, TOO. SOME DIED AT BELASCO'S HAND.

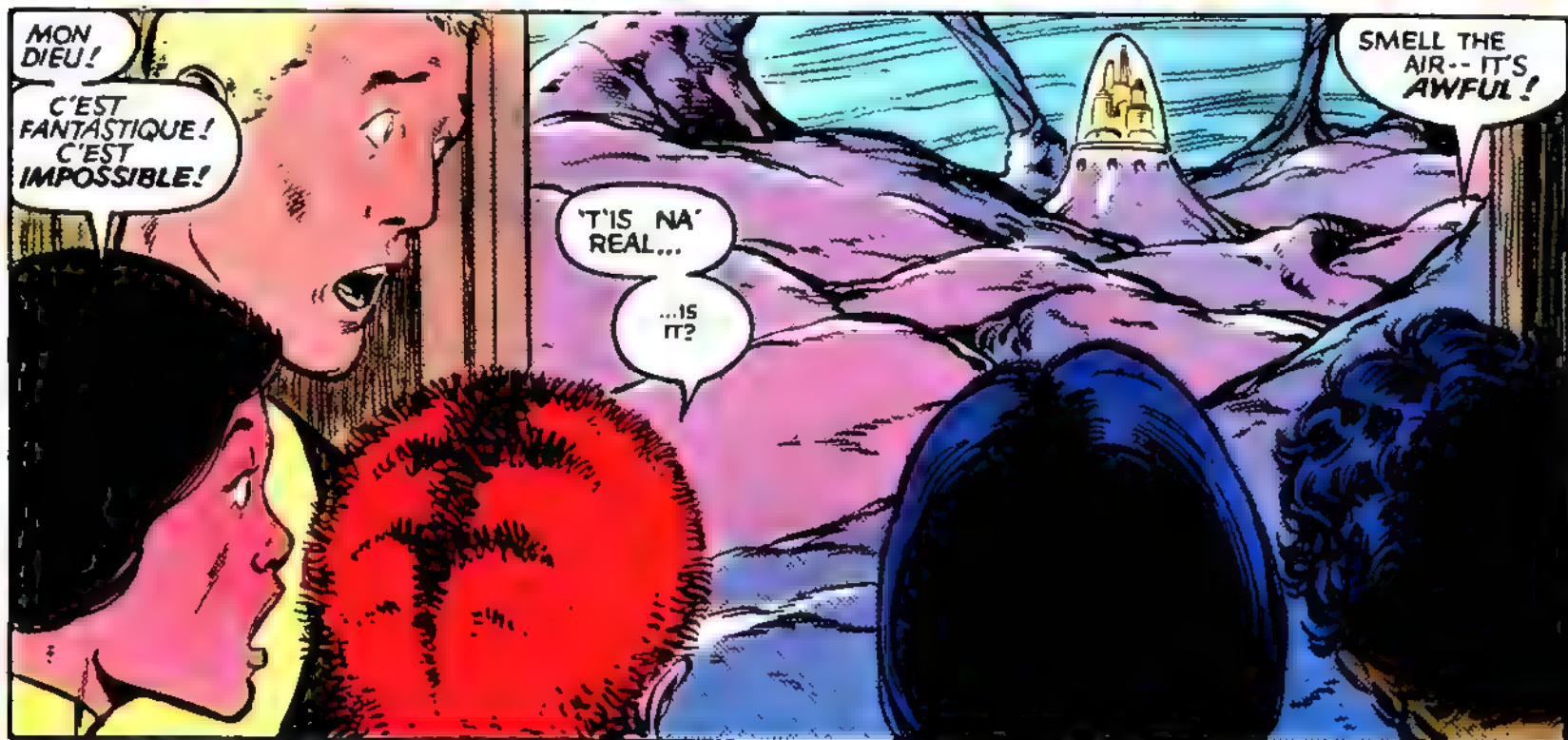
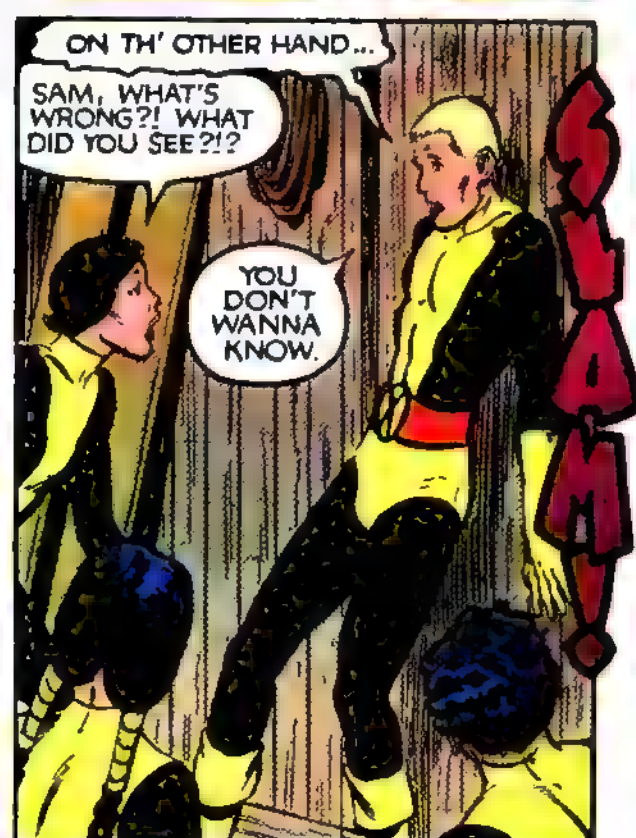
SOME DIED AT MINE.

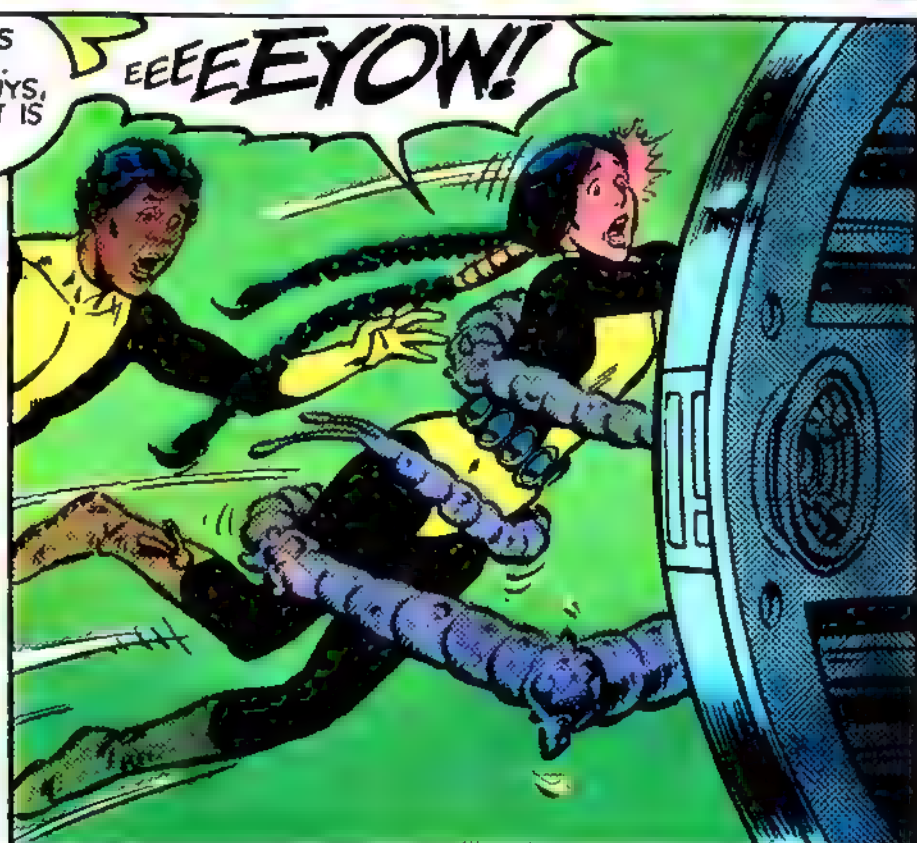


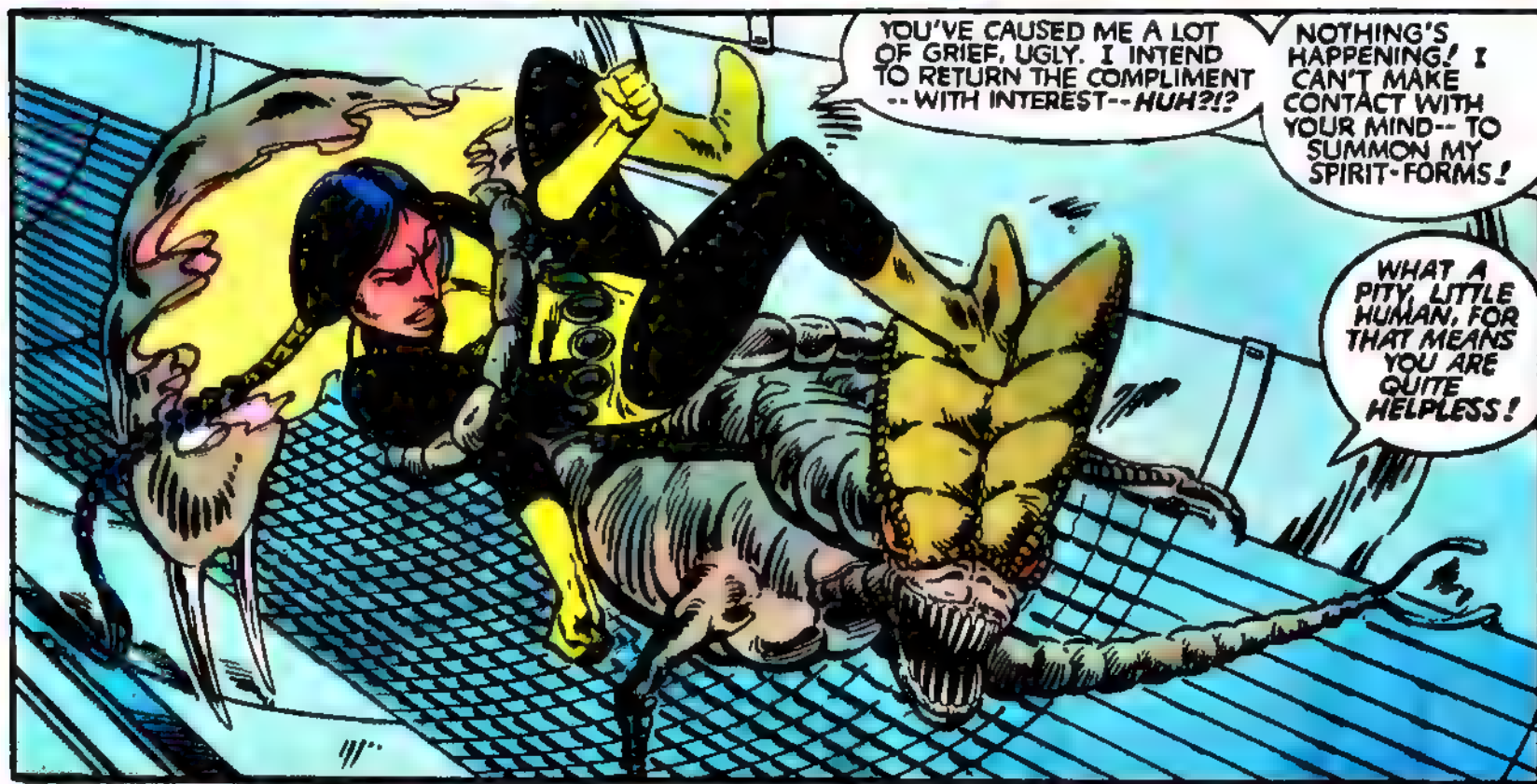
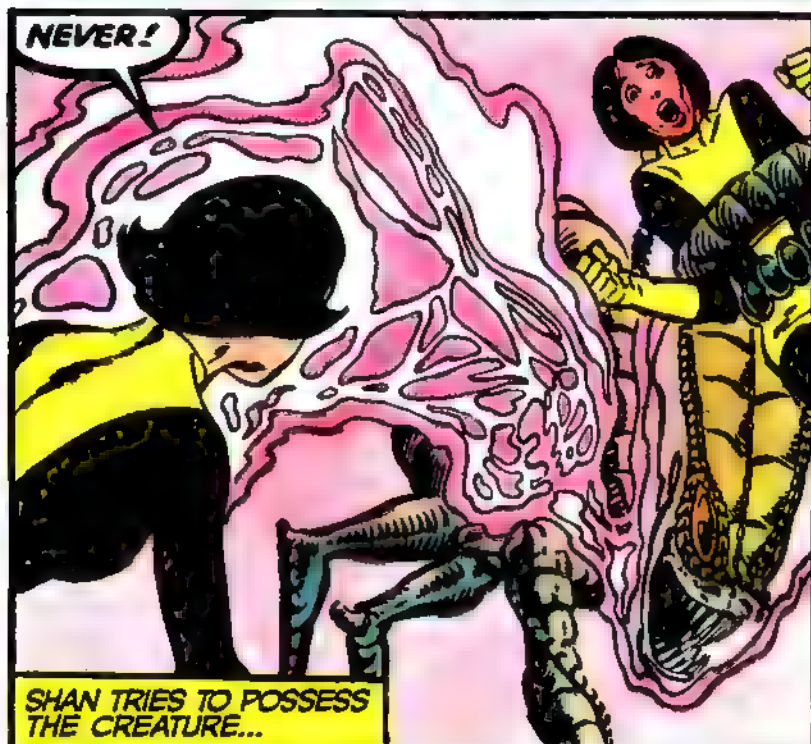
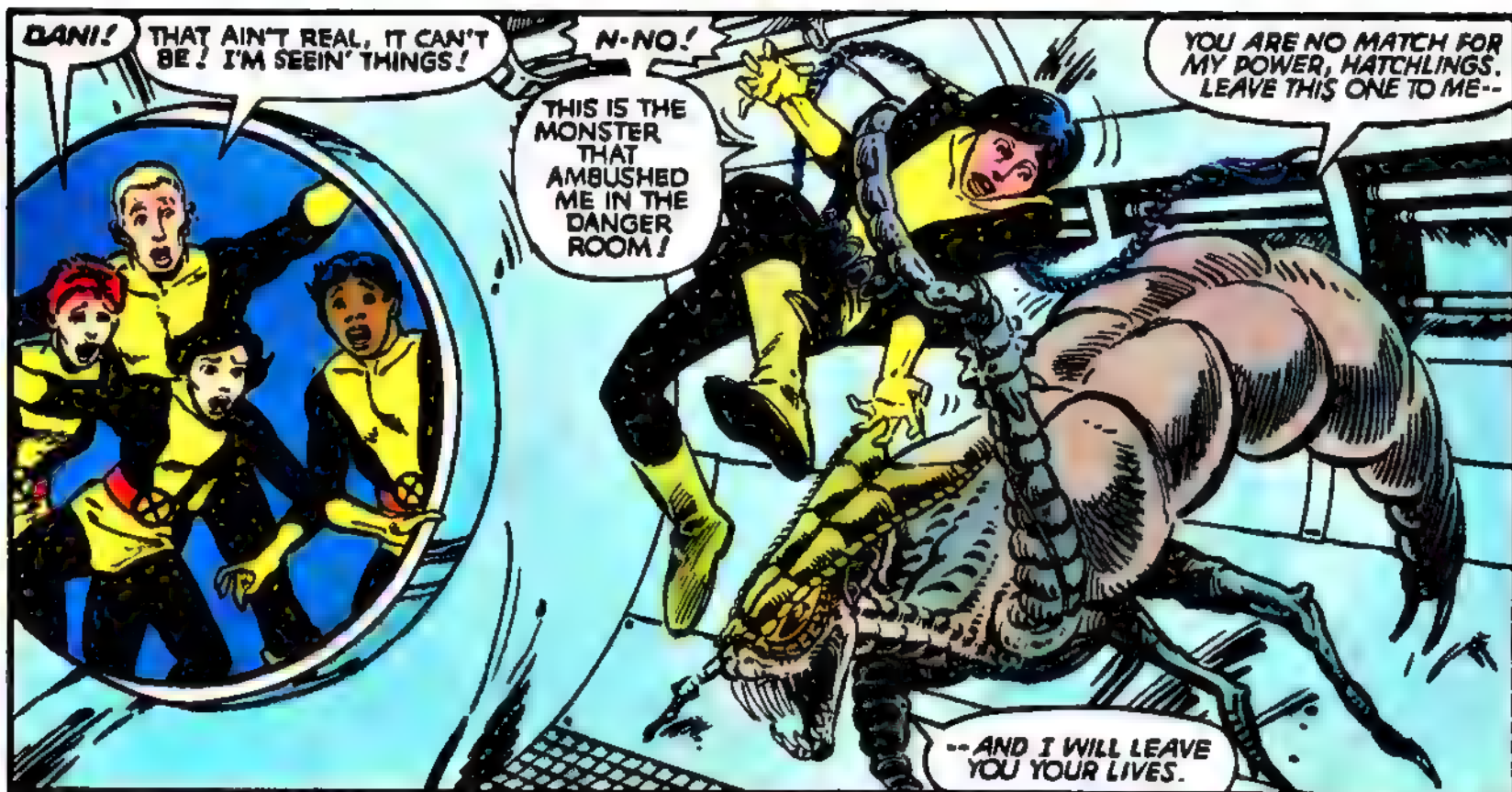


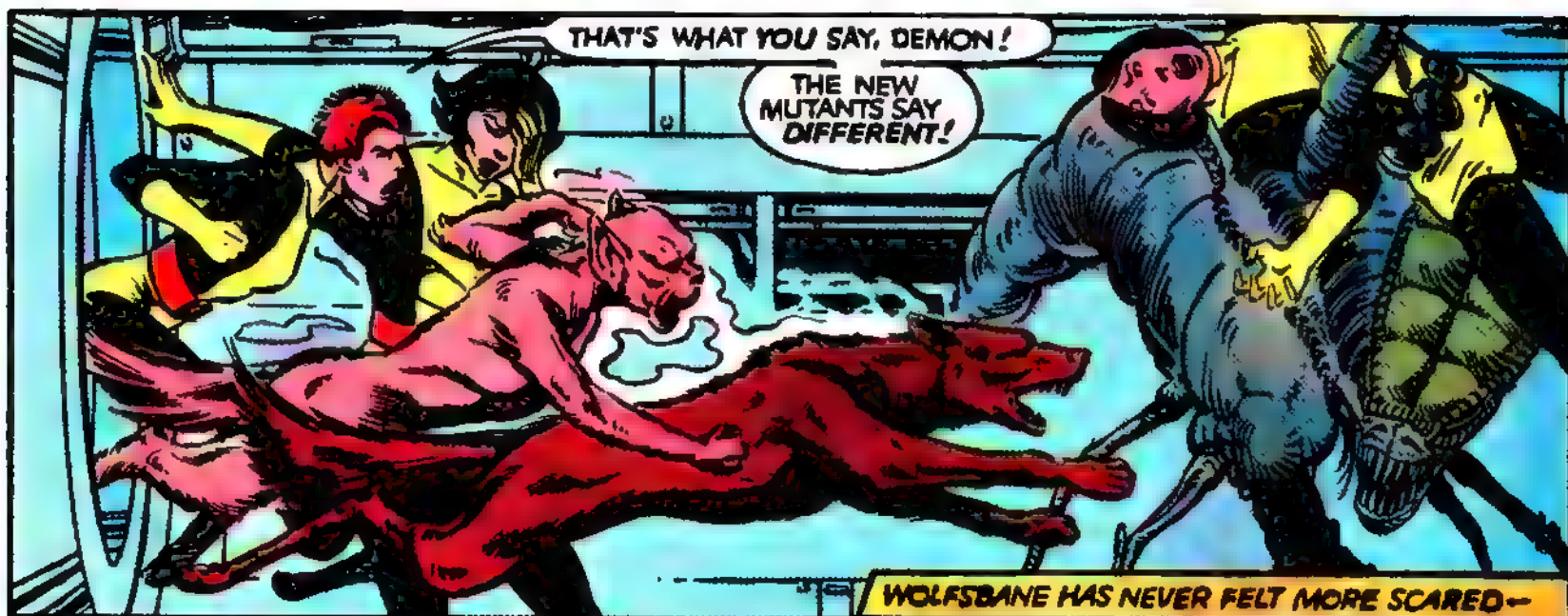




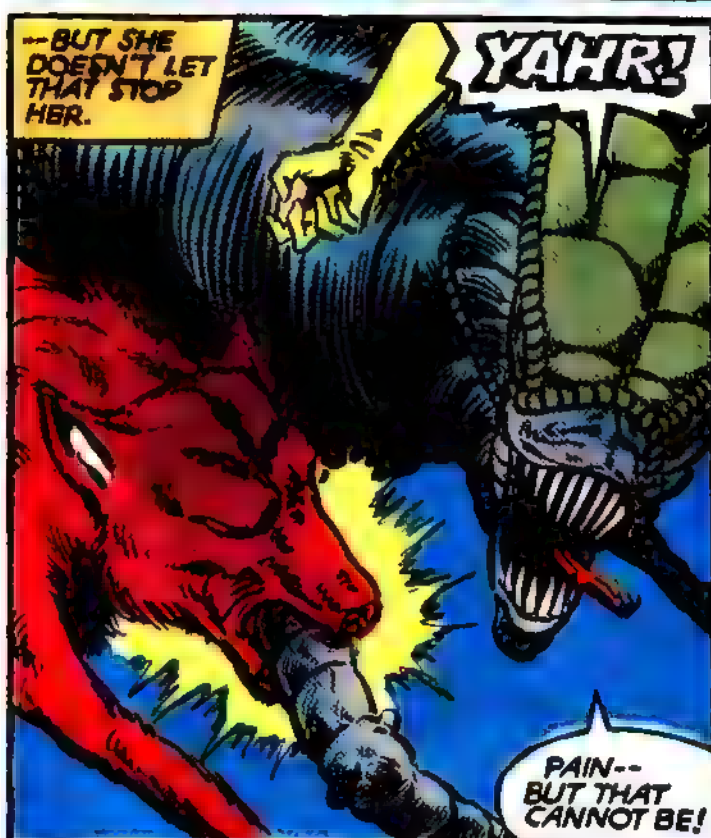




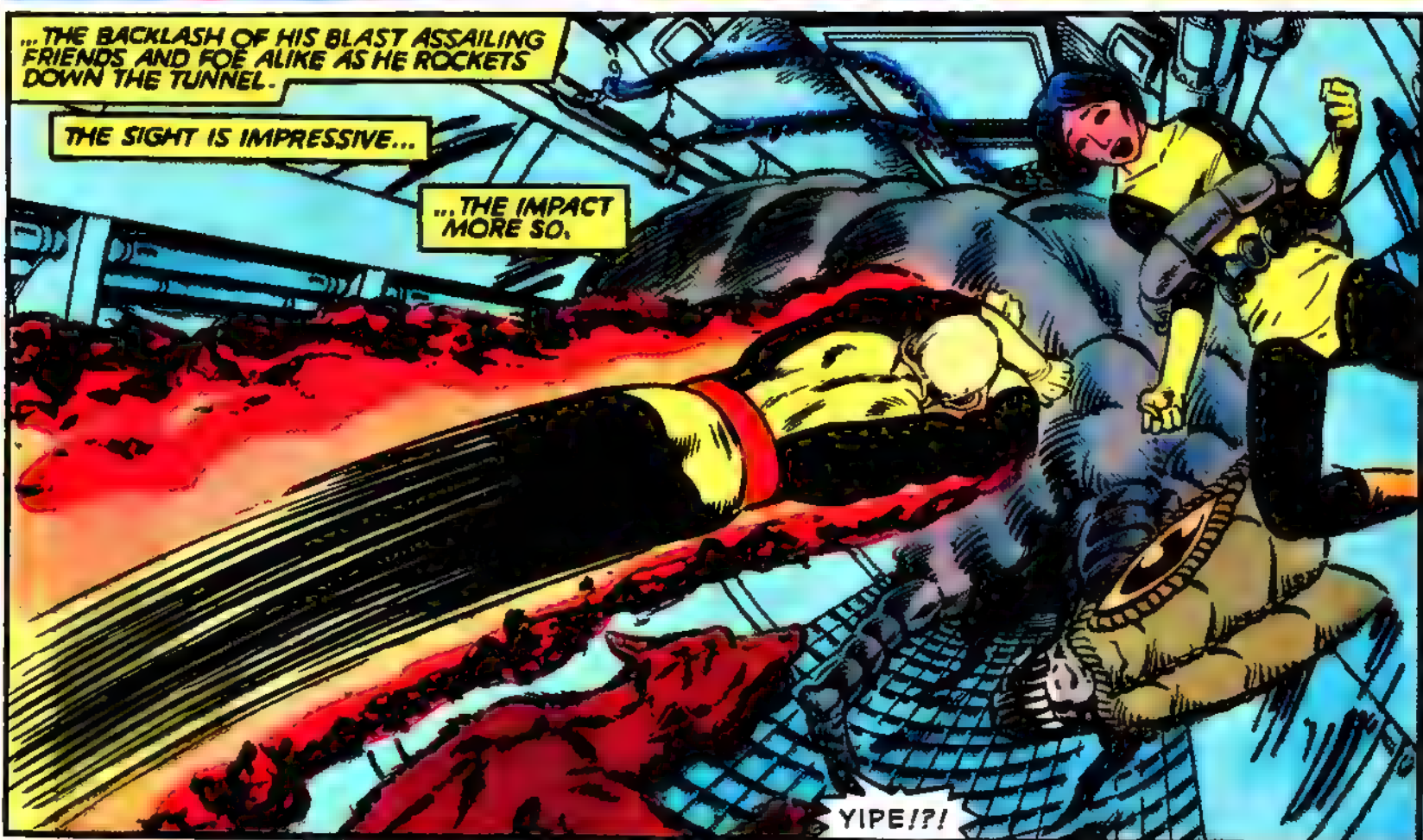




WOLFEBANE HAS NEVER FELT MORE SCARED--



SAM IGNITES HIS POWER...



YIPE!?!

UNFORTUNATELY, WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS...

THIS IS CRAZY!

SAM, YOU WERE DEAD ON TARGET, I-- WE-- SAW YOU!

BUT THERE'S NO BODY. THE MONSTER DISAPPEARED!

GOOD RIDDANCE. IT WAS DISGUSTING.

MAYBE IT DISINTEGRATED. MONSTERS DO THAT ON T.V.

BRILLIANT. MAYBE THEY BEAMED UP TO THE "ENTERPRISE."

DANIELLE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YEAH. SURE. THANKS.

EXCEPT FOR THIS LOUSY HEADACHE. MY SKULL FEELS LIKE IT'S ABOUT TO BURST.

LOOK!!

THE TUNNEL-- IT'S CHANGED!

I WISH I'D PAID MORE ATTENTION IN BIOLOGY CLASS-- BUT I'M ALMOST CERTAIN THAT TUNNEL IS FORMED OF ORGANIC MATTER. WE COULD BE INSIDE A LIVING ORGANISM.

LIKE JONAH AND TH' WHALE?

EV'RYTHING'S STILL NORMAL BEHIND US.

CAN WE NO' RUN AWAY?

WE COULD FLEE THE CREATURE, BUT HOW COULD WE EVER ESCAPE THE MEMORY THAT WE HAD DESERTED PROFESSOR XAVIER?

BUT, ROBERTO, SUPPOSE... WE BEGIN TO CHANGE?

I'VE BEEN TRYING NOT TO THINK ABOUT THAT.

COME ON, LET'S GO. I'LL LEAD. YOU HOLD MY HAND.



WHAT A MESS! THE CLOSER WE COME TO THE MANSION, THE MORE COMPLETE THE METAMORPHOSIS BECOMES. THE MANSION MUST BE ITS SOURCE.



INTERESTING, HOW THIS CONFORMS TO THE BASIC LAYOUT OF THE HOUSE. IT REMINDS ME OF THE DANGER ROOM--CONSTRUCTING AN ILLUSION OF REALITY AROUND A REAL FRAME.

WHAT A BIT WAS NO ILLUSION, SHAN--  
ICHHH!

I WONDER IF WE ARE FACING MERELY A SINGLE OPPONENT? WE NUMBER BUT FIVE AND, FOR ALL OUR TALENTS, ARE YOUNG AND UN-TRAINED. WHY HAS NOT THE MONSTER OVERWHELMED US? PERHAPS IT IS NOT SO FORMIDABLE AS IT APPEARS.



ROBERTO-- THAT TENTACLE!

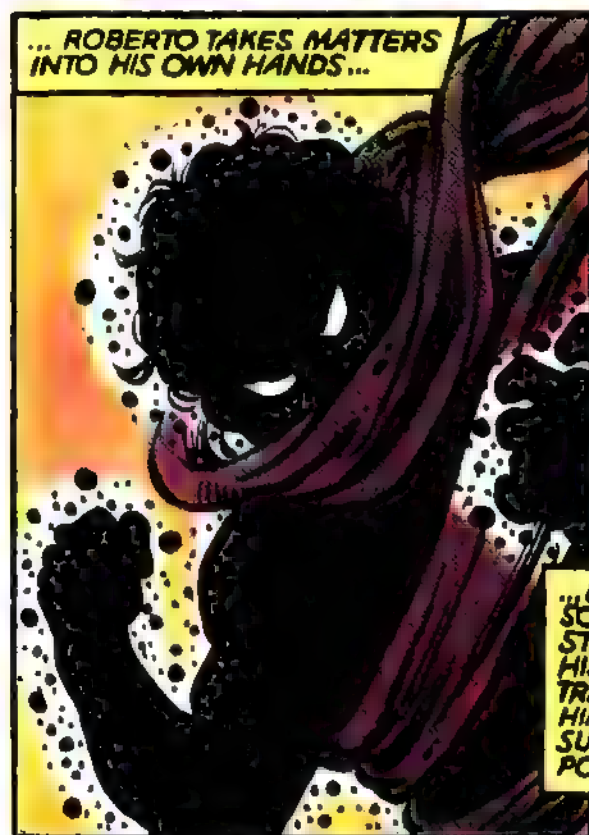
SO MUCH FOR YOUR THEORY, SHAN!



WHULLLLP!!

HANG ON! I'LL SAVE YOU!

BEFORE RAHNE CAN DO SO, HOWEVER ...

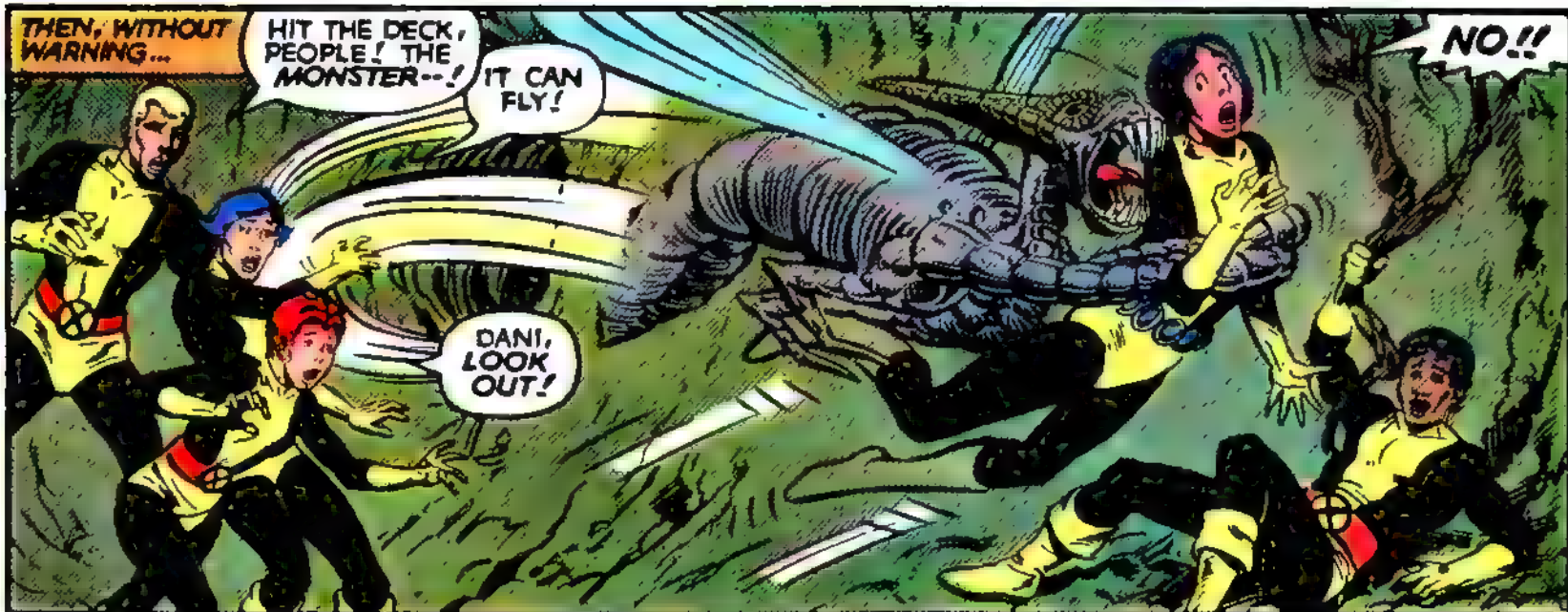


... ROBERTO TAKES MATTERS INTO HIS OWN HANDS...

UNLEASHING SOLAR ENERGY STORED WITHIN HIS BODY TO TRANSFORM HIMSELF INTO A SUPER-STRONG POWERHOUSE.



A FEW SECONDS AFTER THAT, SUNSPOT IS FREE.



THEN, WITHOUT WARNING...

HIT THE DECK, PEOPLE! THE MONSTER--!

IT CAN FLY!

DANI, LOOK OUT!

NO!!



AW, CRIPES! IT BROUGHT COMPANY!



CAN'T-- BREAK FREE! BUT I'VE GOT TO-- MY FRIENDS... IN DANGER-- MY MIND! IT'S BURNING-- HURTS SO MUCH...

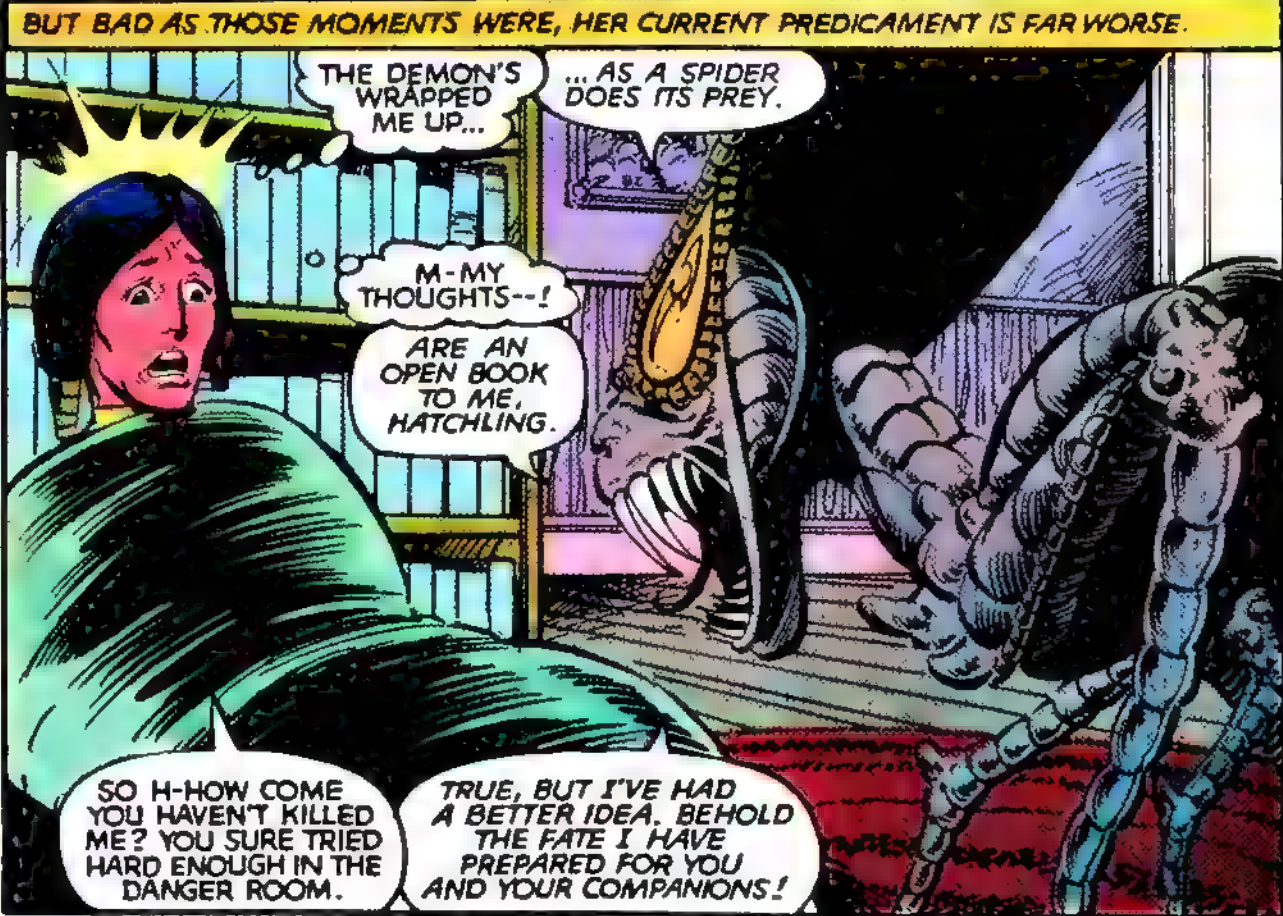


SHE SCREAMS HER THROAT RAW...



... AND WAKES WITH ITS ECHO IN HER EARS...

... THE AFTER-IMAGE OF WHITE-HOT, UN-ENDURABLE AGONY IN HER MIND.



BUT BAD AS THOSE MOMENTS WERE, HER CURRENT PREDICAMENT IS FAR WORSE.

THE DEMON'S WRAPPED ME UP...

... AS A SPIDER DOES ITS PREY.

M-MY THOUGHTS--!

ARE AN OPEN BOOK TO ME, HATCHLING.

SO H-HOW COME YOU HAVEN'T KILLED ME? YOU SURE TRIED HARD ENOUGH IN THE DANGER ROOM.

TRUE, BUT I'VE HAD A BETTER IDEA. BEHOLD THE FATE I HAVE PREPARED FOR YOU AND YOUR COMPANIONS!



REVERED ANCESTORS...!

A ROYAL EGG WILL BE IMPLANTED WITHIN EACH OF YOU. WHEN IT HATCHES...

...YOU WILL BE TRANSFORMED INTO YOUNG QUEENS OF THE BROOD. TOGETHER, WE WILL CONQUER YOUR WORLD, ENSLAVE YOUR RACE, AND TAKE OUR RIGHTFUL PLACE AMONG THE STARS! A GLORIOUS DESTINY, IS IT NOT?



NO I HAVEN'T, UNLESS-- YOU'VE BEEN MAKING ME!



GET OUT OF MY MIND, DEMON!

IT'S NO USE. I SENSE THE CREATURE NOW-- ITS NOT HIDING ANYMORE-- BUT I CAN'T BUDGE IT. HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN A PART OF ME? HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN ITS PUPPET?!

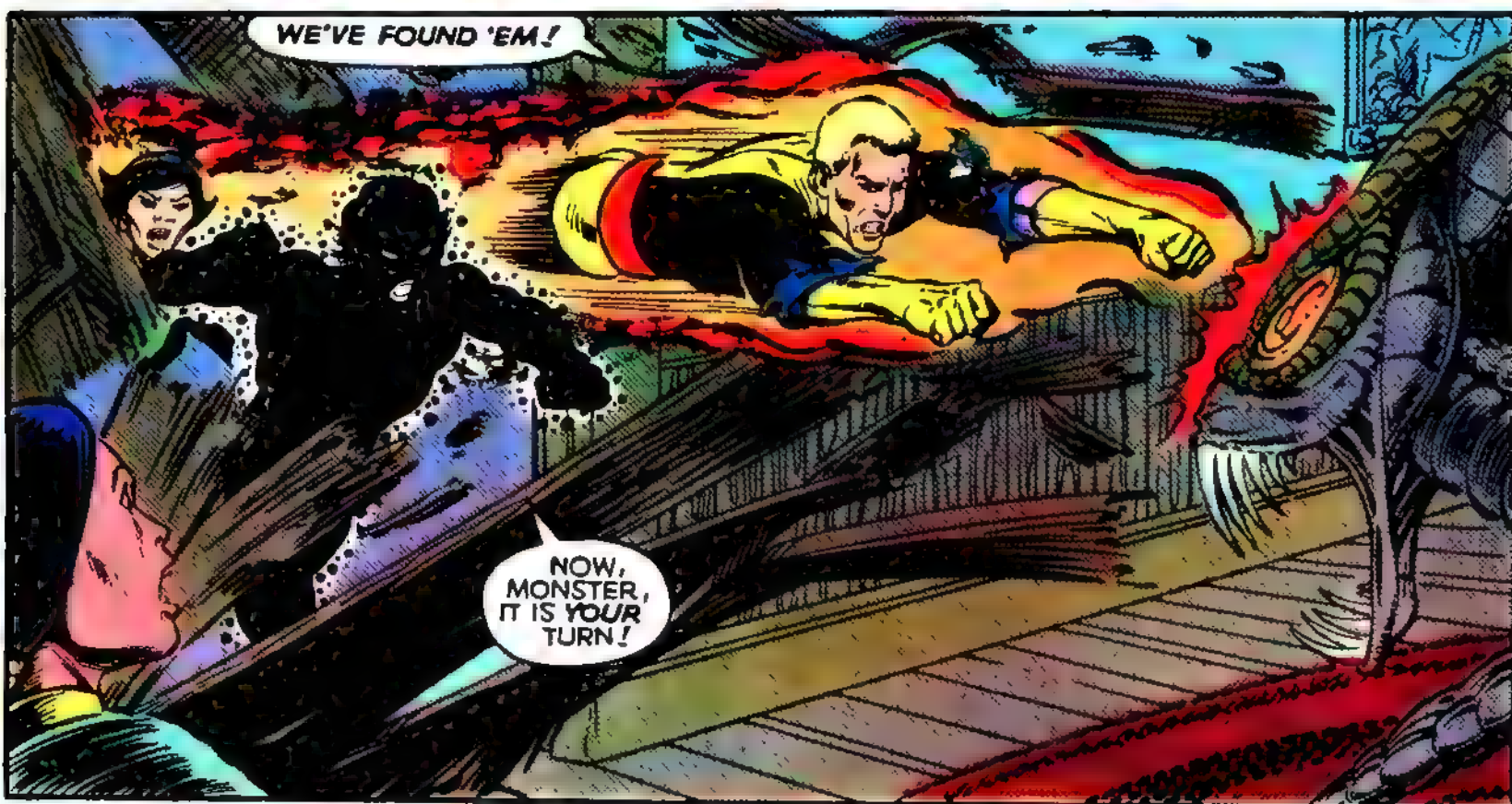
IT ISN'T JUST CREATING SPIRIT-FORMS, THOUGH. EVERYTHING WE'VE FACED HAS BEEN REAL! I CAN'T DO THAT.



NOT YET, BUT I'VE BEEN AUGMENTING YOUR POWERS WITH MY OWN, FULFILLING YOUR ULTIMATE, AND CONSIDERABLE, POTENTIAL-- WHICH YOU YOURSELF WOULD HAVE DONE, AS AN ADULT, GIVEN TIME AND TRAINING.

IRONIC, IS IT NOT? THE THINGS YOU'VE SEEN AND FOUGHT-- THE BEAR, THE TUNNEL, EVEN ME--

-- HAVE IN A SENSE ALL BEEN YOUR OWN CREATION.



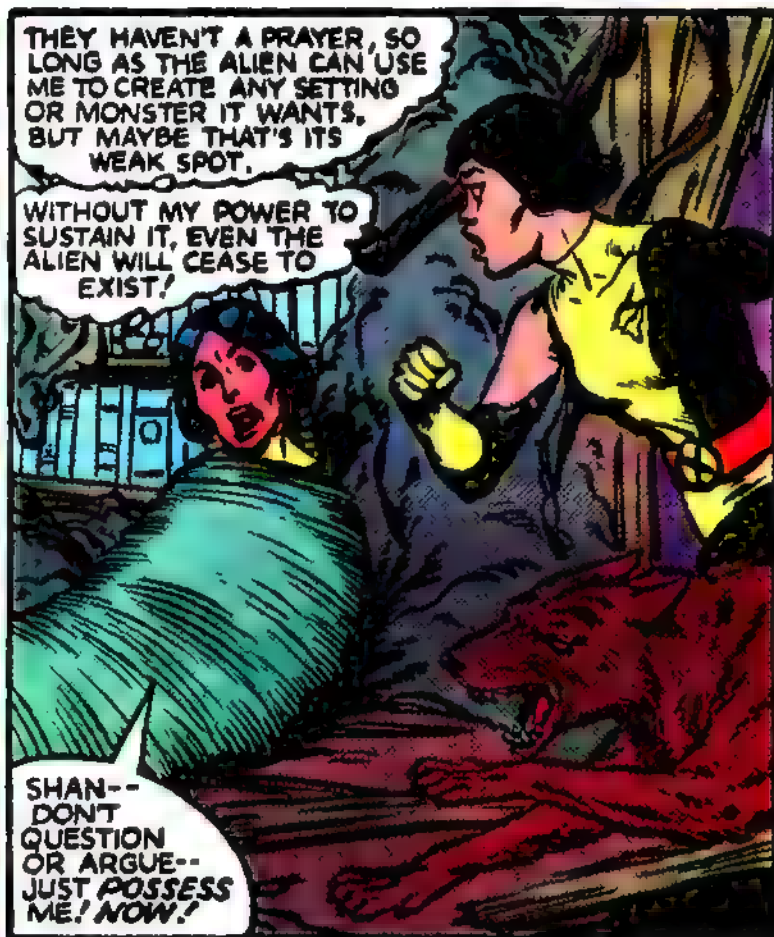
WE'VE FOUND 'EM!

NOW, MONSTER, IT IS YOUR TURN!



THIS IS PROFESSOR XAVIER'S STUDY-- BUT WHERE IS HE?! WHAT HAS THE DEMON DONE WITH HIM?!

LET'S TRASH THE SUCKER FIRST, BOBBY. THEN WE'LL MAKE IT TALK.



THEY HAVEN'T A PRAYER, SO LONG AS THE ALIEN CAN USE ME TO CREATE ANY SETTING OR MONSTER IT WANTS. BUT MAYBE THAT'S ITS WEAK SPOT.

WITHOUT MY POWER TO SUSTAIN IT, EVEN THE ALIEN WILL CEASE TO EXIST!

SHAN-- DON'T QUESTION OR ARGUE-- JUST POSSESS ME! NOW!

AN INSPIRED MOVE-- BUT IT BACKFIRES, AS SHAN ESTABLISHES A MIND-LINK WITH DANI...



THE BROODQUEEN REACHES ACROSS THE LINK--

--SLASHING THROUGH SHAN'S NATURAL PSYCHIC DEFENSES AS IF THEY DIDN'T EXIST-- TO SEIZE CONTROL OF HER MIND.



HEY--!?!?

FORGIVE ME, SHAN, I WOULD MUCH RATHER BE DOING THIS-- AND WORSE--



WHOOFFF!

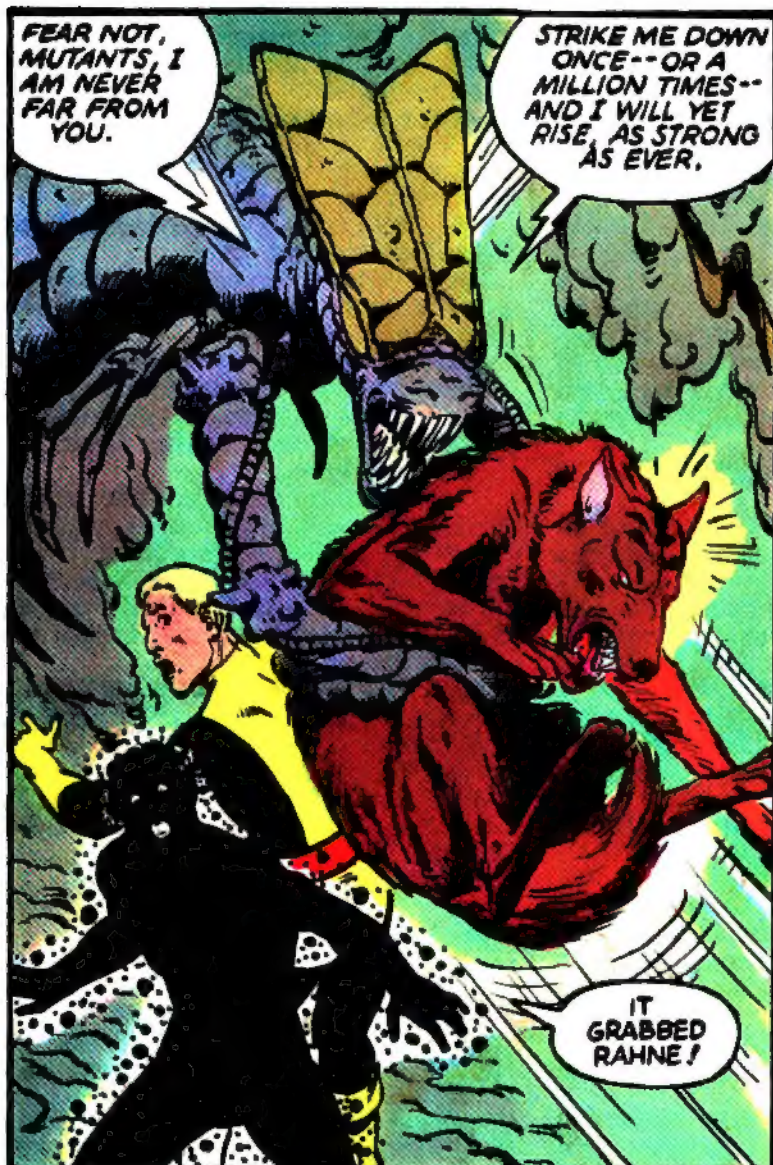


--TO THE DEMON WHO POSSESSED YOU!

SAM, WHERE IS IT? WHERE DID IT GO?

DARNED IF AH KNOW, BOBBY. AH SLAMMED IT INTO THE WALL, HARD AS AH COULD--

--AN' IT VANISHED, LIKE IT DID BACK IN THE TUNNEL.



FEAR NOT, MUTANTS, I AM NEVER FAR FROM YOU.

STRIKE ME DOWN ONCE--OR A MILLION TIMES-- AND I WILL YET RISE, AS STRONG AS EVER.

IT GRABBED RAHNE!

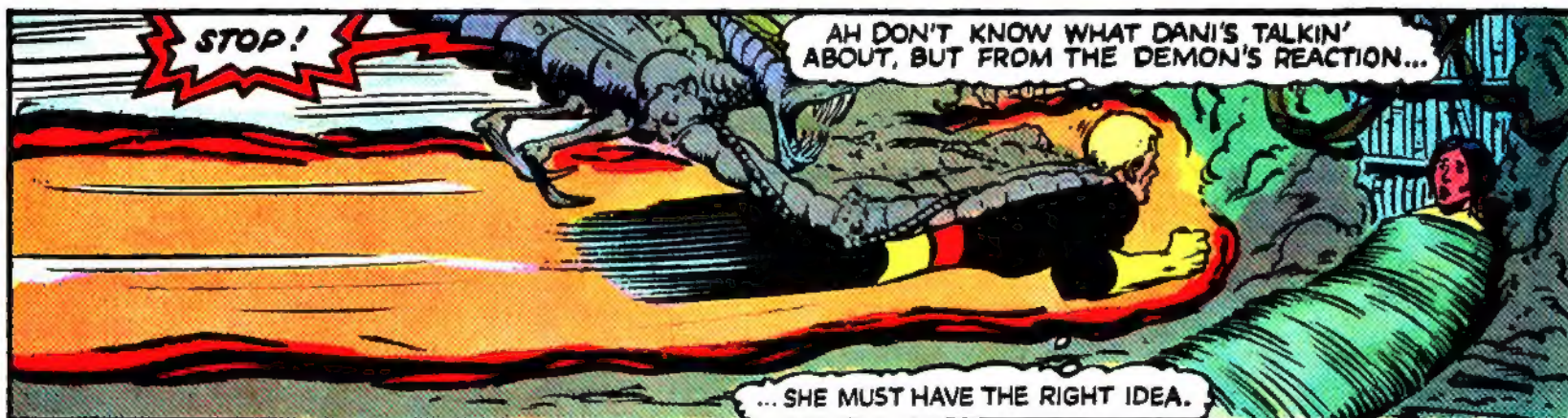


MAKE A MOVE TOWARDS HER, CANNONBALL, AND I'LL FEAST ON YOUR LIVING HEART!

MY HEAD'S THROBBING-- THE ALIEN'S DRAWING ON MORE OF MY POWER-- I CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS! AND NEITHER CAN THE OTHERS! THE ALIEN'S WINNING!



SAM, I'M THE KEY! KAYO ME, AND THE ALIEN'LL DISAPPEAR FOR GOOD! IT'S OUR ONLY HOPE!



STOP!

AH DON'T KNOW WHAT DANI'S TALKIN' ABOUT, BUT FROM THE DEMON'S REACTION...

... SHE MUST HAVE THE RIGHT IDEA.



**KRAK!**

SORRY ABOUT THIS, KID.



HOLY COW, DANI WAS RIGHT!

WAS ALL OF THIS HER FAULT? SOMETHIN' SHE CREATED OUTTA HER CRAZINESS?!

NON, SAM. WHEN I TRIED TO POSSESS HER, I SENSED A TRULY ALIEN-- INHUMAN AND CONSUMMATELY EVIL -- PRESENCE WITHIN HER. SHE WAS AS MUCH A VICTIM AS THE REST OF US.

QUICKLY, WE MUST GET DANI TO THE INFIRMARY. I KNOW YOU TRIED TO PULL YOUR PUNCH, SAM--

-- BUT THE IMPACT STILL MUST HAVE BEEN TERRIBLE.

MUTANTS, EXPLAIN YOURSELVES?! WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!

PROFESSOR XAVIER!! TALK FAST, SOMEONE. I THINK WE ARE IN A LOT OF TROUBLE.

# BULLPEN BULLETINS

## GOOD MORNING, AFTERNOON, OR EVENING AS THE CASE MAY BE!

Welcome to my first-ever interview in this column. I'm asking questions of the man who has more copies of his work in print than any other human being in the history of the world, Marvel super-pro inker, Vince Colletta.

**J.S.:** Let's see... you've been inking since 1950, and you're very fast and prolific... so, including international reprints of your comics and your newspaper strip work, I figure that your copies-in-print total goes well into the billions.

**Vince:** Yeah... well, I never had a day without work... and I never had to ask for a single one of those jobs.

**J.S.:** You know you've made it when editors come to you with jobs.

**Vince:** I never let an editor down... I never let a company down. I always give my best work and on time.

**J.S.:** Back in the days when Marvel ran polls wherein the readers voted for their favorite writers and artists, you often finished first or second against impressive competition. You must have been doing great work. I always liked your stuff — especially those issues of Thor you inked back in the 1960's!

**Vince:** Thanks.

**J.S.:** Has anyone ever told you that you look like a Mafia Boss?

**Vince:** Back when Stan Lee was doing your job he once printed photos of all the artists in the comics one month. After he saw how my picture came out he called me up and asked me to come back and get another picture taken. He thought I looked too much like a gangster. He didn't want me to scare the kids... or their parents.

**J.S.:** Is it true that you know the guy who played Columbo — Peter Falk?

**Vince:** I met him back when I had a photography studio, besides inking comics. Because I photographed a lot of actors, actresses, and beautiful models for magazines and for their portfolios, I met a lot of people who became famous — like George Maharis, James Farentino...

**J.S.:** You're known for your beautiful women... inking wise, I mean. Everybody says that you're one of the best for inking strips featuring female characters. I guess photographing all of those models and actresses helped.

**Vince:** Yeah.

**J.S.:** What's your philosophy about inking?

**Vince:** Well, first of all, some inkers like to pick and choose... they'll only do certain jobs over certain pencils... and they'll take their time, no matter what the deadline is, even if the editor is in a jam, or a colorist is waiting for pages to come in so they can earn a living, too. I can't be that way. I like to feel that I'm part of the team, and we're all in the game together. If the editor asks me to ink a story by, say, a young, inexperienced penciler who still has some rough edges to his work, I'll do it and I'll do the best I can. It might not come out quite as good as a job that I'd inked over by John Buscema... it can't. No way. But, I'd rather give it a try to help out the new guy, the editor, and the team than pick and choose jobs that will make me look good.

**J.S.:** Explain how the pencils affect the way the inking comes out.

**Vince:** The readers only see the ink. All the pencil lines are covered by the inker's inklines. Once the book is printed, no one can tell what the pencil drawings looked like before the inker inked them. They might have given you a tightly rendered face, for instance, or maybe just an oval shape with smudges about where the eyes and mouth go. If he gives you precise drawing, the finished, inked head will look like the penciler's style. If he gives you an oval, you're really getting the inker's drawing.

**J.S.:** It's up to the editor to make sure that the penciler has held up his end. Still, I know, that in a story which might have 150 separate panels, even the best pencils might blow a few panels.

**Vince:** I think the inker should follow the penciler's style and try to make it come through. A lot of inkers these days overpower the pencils, though. The penciler just gives them a framework and the inkers take over from there. That's okay if it's what the penciler and the editor want.

**J.S.:** Sometimes it is. Frank Miller worked that way with Klaus Johnson on Daredevil for a while... and Walt Simonson did it with Tom Palmer on Star Wars, too. They really sort of stopped being penciler/inker teams and kind of melded together. Unless guys are working on that kind of basis, though, I think I agree with you — the penciler should bear primary responsibility.

**Vince:** Right... since I've never worked with a penciler the way Klaus worked with Frank, I've always tried to enhance the pencils. It's not easy. Pencil drawings often have a life and a charm that can't be captured in the inking. Pencils give an infinite range of grays and tones. An inkline is either there or it's not. Sometimes it's frustrating. There have been times when I've tried to give editors jobs back. I told them, "these

pencils are beautiful. Get someone better to ink them!" But, they always insisted that I do them.

**J.S.:** Who's your favorite penciler? And inker?

**Vince:** I have favorites, but I'd rather not say. Every guy in the business is good in his own way. They're all pros. It's like baseball — not every player can be a Reggie Jackson, but each one has a reason to be here.

**J.S.:** You helped a passel of people get started in the business, right?

**Vince:** Michael Golden, Bill Sienkiewicz, Danny Bulanadi, Frank Miller, Marshall Rogers... and others. I forget...

**J.S.:** Which of yours did you like best?

**Vince:** I've inked a lot of stories in thirty-three years. Too many to single one out. But, I'll tell you about the best day in my whole career...

**J.S.:** Okay, I'll bite...

**Vince:** It was the day I came back to start working at Marvel again after being with another company for a while. I'll never forget the welcome I got here in the Bullpen... it was like coming home. I feel like I'm in the major leagues again. People care here, about each other and about the comics.

**J.S.:** You're doing Thor, Dazzler, and Crystar. Plus, since everybody loved your work on Dark Crystal over Bret Blevins' pencils, you two are doing a Hulk Graphic Novel together, right?

**Vince:** Right. I love doing the kind of artful, meticulous linework that Bret's pencils call for. I'm looking forward to that.

**J.S.:** Me, too. Thanks, Vince!

## THAT'S IT!

Till next month when the Bullpen Bulletin returns to its usual non-interview format.

But, if you like the idea of reading your favorite Marvel creative peoples' answers to my occasionally intelligent questions, you'll find an interview in just about every edition of my Bullpen Bulletin Special which appears in all issues of Moon Knight, Ka-Zar, and the Micronauts which are on sale through subscription or at your local comics specialty shop. If you don't know where the comics shop nearest you is, write to me. I'll let you know.

Stay well,



Jim Shooter

## THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

- ☐ MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #99 — The Thing, and Rom.
- ☐ TEAM AMERICA #12 — Double-sized last issue!
- ☐ DAZZLER #26
- ☐ KA-ZAR #26 — Special wraparound photo-cover
- ☐ NEW MUTANTS #3
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #194
- ☐ DARK CRYSTAL #2
- ☐ KING CONAN #16
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #240
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #281
- ☐ THOR #331
- ☐ GHOST RIDER #80
- ☐ MICRONAUTS #52
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT #31
- ☐ INDIANA JONES #5
- ☐ U.S. 1 #1 — An all new series of truckin' adventures, by AL MILGROM
- ☐ CRYSTAR #1 — See Hype Box
- ☐ KULL THE CONQUEROR #1
- ☐ SUPER VILLAIN CLASSICS #1 — See Hype Box
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #283
- ☐ AVENGERS #231
- ☐ CONAN #146
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #151 — Reprints Amazing Spider-Man #13 "The Menace of Mysterio" by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO.

- ☐ X-MEN #169
- ☐ ROM #42
- ☐ POWER MAN/IRON FIST #93
- ☐ G.I. JOE #11
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #254
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP #129 — Spider-Man and the Vision.
- ☐ IRON MAN #170 — See Hype Box
- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #76.
- ☐ DEFENDERS #119
- ☐ STAR WARS #71
- ☐ MASTER OF KUNG FU #124
- ☐ THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #5

## MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #87
- ☐ CRAZY #94 — The last laugh: Crazy's final issue!
- ☐ BLIP #2
- ☐ MARVEL AGE #2
- ☐ MARVEL FANFARE #8
- ☐ EPIC #17

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- ☐ WARLOCK #6 — The conclusion of the Warlock saga!

## EPIC COMICS

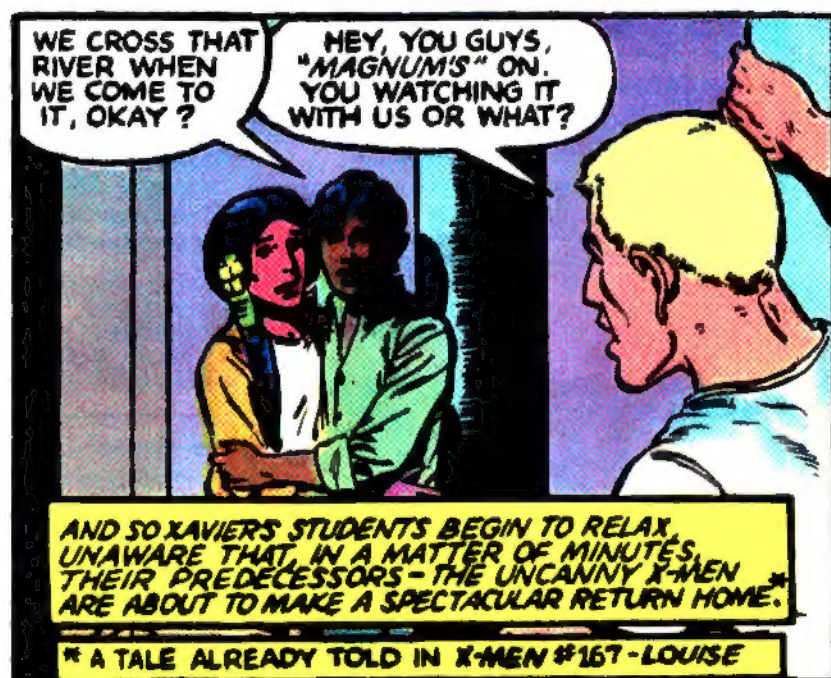
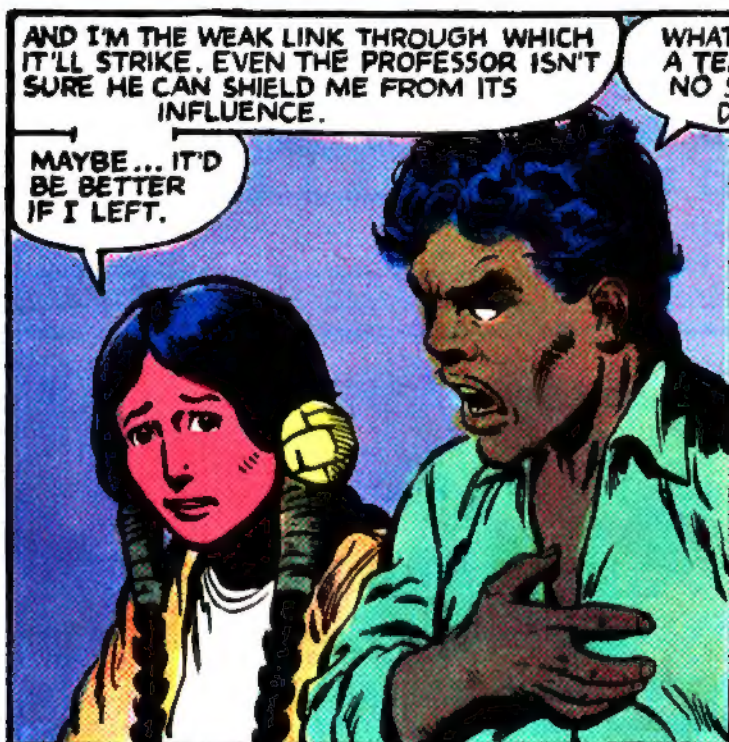
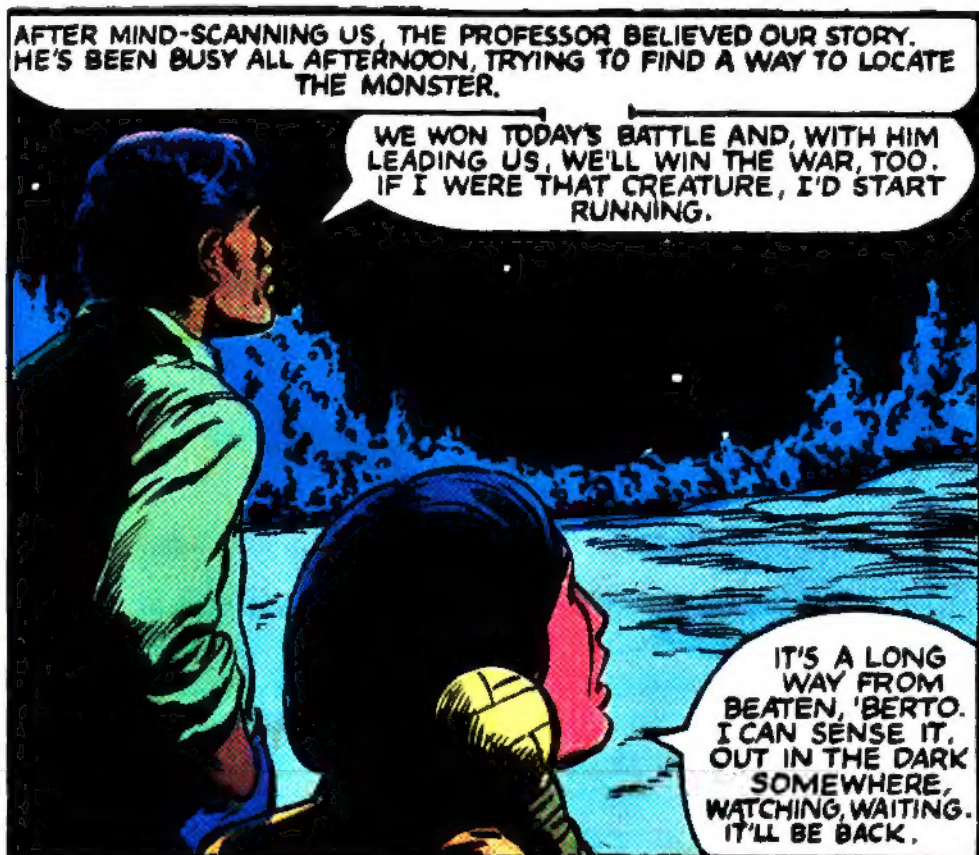
- ☐ DREADSTAR #3

## THE HYPE BOX

**SUPER VILLAIN CLASSICS #1** — For the first time ever in chronological order: the origin of the ultimate Marvel villain... Galactus! It's based on the original STAN LEE texts, expanded by editor MARK GRUENWALD, and the art is vintage JACK KIRBY- GEORGE KLEIN-VINCE COLLETTA material. All the fearsome facts about the world devourer — here! A worthy addition to any collection.

**CRYSTAR #1** — Created by MARK GRUENWALD, RALPH MACCHIO, JIM SHOOTER, and JOHN ROMITA JR., the legendary kingdom of Crystallum is brought to full life by writer JO DUFFY, penciller BRET BLEVINS, and inker VINCE COLLETTA (remember Bret and Vince's Dark Crystal?). Once you enter this new realm of fantasy, you may never want to leave.

**IRON MAN #170** — As if the job DENNY O'NEIL, LUKE McDONNELL and STEVE MITCHELL have been doing on this mag in recent months wasn't fantastic enough, this issue heralds the beginning of a new era for the golden Avenger, as alcoholism renders Tony Stark incapable of functioning as Iron Man, and the responsibility of the famous armor falls — perhaps forever — to...ah, but that would be telling.



NEXT: SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!

WHO'S SCARING STEVIE ?

# MINUTEMEN



## STREET BOY